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PNE fair kidding around

Starts Saturday.
Fair focuses on fun for the young and young at heart

PHYLICIA TORREVILLAS
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The Fair at the PNE is pulling out all the stops to amp up the fun factor for B.C. families.

The summertime favourite, which starts Saturday and runs until Sept. 3, returns for its 102nd year and is offering more attractions and entertainment for kids under 13.

"We've gone above and beyond for our youngest fairgoers," said PNE president and CEO Michael McDaniel.

Princess Jubilation, a new musical stage show celebrating girl empowerment with "Princess Power" will make its Canadian debut, and a brand new exhibit featuring seven children's playhouses will be on display in a special themed area at this year's Fair.

"They are a fun and innovative way to show what is possible when you build with wood," said Canfor president and CEO Don Kayne. "Each playhouse celebrates two really important things — the versatility of wood and the power of play."

The playhouses were designed and built by top architects, builders and forestry companies from across B.C. as part of Canfor's playhouse challenge.

Kayne said the playhouses will be auctioned off to pre-registered corporate buyers after the PNE, with proceeds going to Habitat for Humanity Canada affiliates in B.C.

PNE's Feature Pavilion is back with a new Star Trek exhibit, and former Entertainment Tonight host Bob Goen will be hosting Family Feud Live at PNE's Family Theatre.

Musical acts including Olivia Newton-John, Gavin DeGraw, Hanson, Our Lady Peace and Rick Springfield are also set to hit the stage.

Members of the media got a sneak preview of Princess Jubilation, a new musical stage show making its debut at The Fair at the PNE. PHYLICIA TORREVILLAS/METRO

Vancouver full of Pride

Celebration may be given civic status by city PAGE 3

Pussy Riot's reckoning

It's judgment day for Russian punk rockers PAGE 10

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Sawmill explosions

Green wood just as combustible as beetle-kill: Agency

WorkSafeBC is alerting the sawmill industry that green wood dust poses as much of a risk of explosion as beetle-kill wood.

Jeff Dolan, director of investigations, said samples of green wood dust collected from mills across B.C. were sent to a U.S. lab last month for comparison with beetle-kill wood. The test shows that green wood dust, from trees cut down while alive, is just as flammable. WorkSafeBC is investigating two deadly mill explosions this year in Burns Lake and Prince George.

"Green wood that has a moisture content below five per cent and a particle size less than 75 micrometres poses a high risk for explosion when dispersed and ignited in the air," Dolan said.

There has been speculation on the role of beetle-kill wood as the possible fuel source for the explosions. The agency expects to release a report this fall.

PHYLICIA TORREVILLAS/METRO

ICBC report

Auto insurer out of touch with reality, minister says

The Insurance Corporation of British Columbia hasn't adjusted to the realities of the global economy, said B.C. Finance Minister Kevin Falcon. A government review of the public auto insurer said the corporation needs to cut up to 195 staff. The review also found wages for senior management have gone up 70 per cent since 2007, a figure Falcon called unacceptable, given the unstable world economy. CEO Jon Schubert announced his resignation this week.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Donor, bike shop team to replace disabled man's stolen bike

A generous Metro reader and Langley bike shop stepped up on Thursday to replace an electric bike that was stolen from a young Surrey man with disabilities.

Brayden Walterhouse, 20, who is deaf and has mild cerebral palsy, was dismayed on Tuesday to discover his $1,000 bike had been stolen from a bike locker while he was working out at the Guildford Recreation Centre.

His parents bought the special electric kit for him two years ago to make getting around easier.

After reading Walterhouse's story in Metro on Thursday, the donor, who wished to remain anonymous, emailed the paper and offered to cover the full cost of replacing the bike.

Velocity Cycles in Langley offered to provide the new bike and kit at cost, throwing in some freebies — including a very solid lock.

Walterhouse's mom, Sylvia Walterhouse, was shocked to hear the news.

"There's good and there's bad, and we've seen the good and the bad all in the same week, and I'm overwhelmed," she said. "We're just so grateful for the generosity."

The donor, who was raised in Surrey and has served on a number of charities and boards, including the Canadian Paraplegic Association, said in an email:

"I'm not seeking publicity. I have a disabled niece and I just want Brayden to have what's his."

Sylvia and Brayden plan to pick out the new bike on Friday afternoon.

KATE WEBB/METRO

Brayden Walterhouse is getting a new electric bike thanks to a Metro reader and a Langley bike shop.

KATE WEBB/METRO

Pride should have civic status: Vision Vancouver

Motion going before council. Vaisakhi and Chinese/Lunar New Year could also get civic status

KATE WEBB
kate.webb@metronews.ca

If Vision Vancouver councillors get their way, the Vancouver Pride Parade could be granted civic status, a fiscal privilege enjoyed by only three other events.

Coun. Tim Stevenson has been lobbying city hall for a decade to make the move, which would see the city pick up the tab for policing, sanitation, parking and cleanup.

"This is a big, big breakthrough," he said Thursday, after Vision Vancouver councillors decided unanimously to take the first steps toward granting the motion. Stevenson said he also wants Vaisakhi and the Chinese/Lunar New Year to be considered.

"This year, Pride was very successful, even larger than last year, with 650,000 people. I think Vision has come to realize this is a matter of justice, that these are institutions now; they're not just little events."

The city presently covers the costs for the annual Celebration of Light and Remembrance Day ceremonies, as well as the Grey Cup Parade.

Pride Parade president Tim Richards said policing and sanitation for Pride cost roughly $65,000 a year, and if the city picks up the bill it will cut costs by about 25 per cent. The parade injects some $30 million annually into the Vancouver economy.

Richards said "the really cool thing" is that the city is including all three parades, "and just the investment that they're making into embracing diversity and promoting equality. It makes a much stronger community."

Vision holds seven of the 10 seats on council, so if party support for the motion holds steady it will be passed sometime after council resumes sitting on Sept. 18.

High attendance at this year's Pride Parade helped convince Vision Vancouver to back a motion directing staff to report on the cost of granting civic status to the event. DARRYL DYCK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

METRO 1 NEWS

Mobile news

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New art installation. Chill out on Robson

Vancouverites on Robson Street now have a new place to kick back and relax after the city set up a comfy new installation for the summer. ELIZABETH HAMES/FOR METRO

Vancouverites have mixed feelings about the city's latest art installation, but it may be just what they need to relax.

Pop Rocks, whose design was a collaboration between AFJD Studio and Matthew Soules Architecture, turns the 800 block of Robson Street into a pillowy playland and lounge area.

Crews began setting up the oversized beanbags, white umbrellas and patches of fake grass earlier this week, and by Thursday they were ready for use.

Gregory Johnson from North Vancouver stopped by to test out the new pillow-like forms, which are made from the recycled fabric of the Canada Place sails.

He said he liked the art project, adding that it's more comfortable than last year's installation of wavy artificial turf.

But not everyone agrees with him.

"I heard somebody going by saying, 'What a waste of road space,'" he said.

Shannon Whissell and Rivers Mitchell of Victoria heard similar comments as they took shelter from the sun under one of the umbrellas. "I heard one guy pass say, 'This is a waste of space,'" said Mitchell.

However, Whissell said she saw a lot of people enjoying the installation, such as families playing around on the large beanbags. "I think that things like this that slow people down are a great way to experience art or change the city," she said.

Karen and Alex Davies, who were visiting from England, said the installation is a great way to bring people together and slow down the bustle of the city.

"If this wasn't here, you'd just keep walking down the road, whereas people are stopping, they're relaxing, they're interacting with each other," she said. "It's a bit like an oasis."

ELIZABETH HAMES/FOR METRO

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Jordan Boos scares during the 2011 Vancouver Zombie Walk at the Vancouver Art Gallery. More than 1,500 participants dressed up as zombies and stumbled down Robson Street toward English Bay. PHYLICIA TORREVILLAS/METRO FILE

Vancouver gets zombie-fied

The undead. Fifth annual walk will see city come alive with zombie wannabes

PHYLICIA TORREVILLAS
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If you walk the streets of Vancouver this Saturday and it feels like something out of director George Romero's Night of the Living Dead, don't be afraid.

Legions of the undead are just stumbling their way from the Vancouver Art Gallery to English Bay for the fifth annual Vancouver Zombie Walk.

Organizer Isaac Terpstra, who will be dressed as a DJ zombie with a giant boom box on his shoulder, said there are only a few simple rules you need to follow if you want to join the march.

Quoted

"Don't scare any children if they don't look like they're into it, and just behave yourself."

Isaac Terpstra, Vancouver Zombie Walk organizers, lays down a couple of rules

"Don't make a mess," he said. "Don't deface any property. Don't scare any children if they don't look like they're into it and just behave yourself."

The Zombie Walk appeals to a lot of people because the idea of getting zombie-fied is simple, he added.

"It's not a complex thing that people have to invest a lot of time or money into," he said. "People just need to maybe get some tattered-up clothing. If they want to, they can put some fake blood on themselves. They just shamble along, grunt and groan and act like the living dead."

People are encouraged to arrive at the Art Gallery at 3 p.m. and the walk starts at 4 p.m.

Zombie-inspired events are also happening across the city — from zombie-makeup parties to zombie burlesque. For more information, visit zombiewalkvancouver.com.

Vancouver Canucks alumnus Garth Butcher plays a round of air hockey at the Scotiabank Pro-Am for Alzheimer's barbecue fundraiser in Vancouver Thursday. ELIZABETH HAMES/FOR METRO

Hockey alumni shut out Alzheimer's

Former hockey pros served up a barbecue lunch with a side of altruism Thursday.

Vancouver Canucks alumni Cliff Ronning, Garth Butcher and Jack McIlhargey stopped by the Scotiabank Pro-Am for Alzheimer's fundraising barbecue to sign autographs, dish out some salads and play a few rounds of air hockey.

The Pro-Am, which runs Oct. 26-28, will see NHL greats playing alongside fans to raise money for the Alzheimer's Society of B.C. and the Baycrest research institute.

McIlhargey said he was happy to be able to support a cause like Alzheimer's research. "It's touched a lot of families, you know, myself included," he said. "I've had uncles and aunts who have had Alzheimer's, and it's a terrible disease."

On the web

Visit scotiabankproam.com for details about how to play hockey with your favourite NHL great.

Although none of his relatives have suffered from the disease, Ronning was similarly pleased to lend his name to a cause that affects a lot of people. He also said he was looking forward to working alongside players he used to battle with on the ice.

"Once you retire, everyone moves on to the next chapter in your life," he said. "It's always fun to come back and visit those great times when we did play hockey for a living."

Butcher agreed.

"With hockey guys, it's pretty funny," he said. "You might have seen somebody a couple of months ago or you might have seen them 10 years ago. Usually it takes about two minutes before … the old stories start flying."

ELIZABETH HAMES/FOR METRO

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Wildlife. Cougar attack on boy prompts investigation

Wildlife specialists hope to get to the bottom of an unusual cougar attack on a Vancouver Island boy earlier this week.

A seven-year-old child was mauled by a cougar while he was camping at Sprout Lake, near Port Alberni, with his family on Wednesday.

Hearing his screams, the boy's father rushed to his aid, jumped on the large cat, and smashed it in the head with a rock. The cougar ran off, but conservation officers tracked and killed it Thursday morning.

The child suffered lacerations to his head and shoulder. His father escaped uninjured.

A post-mortem will determine the animal's age, diet and health — details that could shed light on what motivated the spontaneous attack, said Chris Doyle of the B.C. Conservation Officer Service. He said attacks like these are rare.

Since 1900, there have been eight fatal attacks and about 75 cougar-encounters that resulted in human injury. Cougars generally feed on small mammals — like house cats and dogs — as well as deer.

When they do attack people, it's because they see them as food, said Doyle. He said the cougar in this attack could have been desperate for a meal, or the boy may have "just triggered something in that cougar to believe that it could take him down and eat him."

Last August, an 18-month-old child was also mauled by a cougar on Vancouver Island and reportedly required surgery. ELIZABETH HAMES/FOR METRO

Air accident

Second plane passenger dies

A second person has died after Monday's small plane crash west of Kelowna, B.C. The B.C. Coroner's Service says Lauren Patricia Sewell, 24, of Surrey, died in hospital. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Population decline

Sockeye fishermen could be at a loss

Sockeye fishermen on the Fraser River may not get a single opportunity to cast their nets this season. Total sockeye returns on the river are estimated at just 2.1-million fish. THE CANADIAN PRESS

A film fest where lovers and fighters share the big screen

Broad attraction. Many of the films have a universal appeal, says director of programming

KATE WEBB
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Are you a lover, a fighter, or both? Both extremes and every shade in between are represented at the 24th Vancouver Queer Film Festival, running Thursday until Aug. 26.

Director of programming Amber Dawn said this year's "lovers and fighters" theme reflects the unique struggles of the LGBTQ community. "It's sort of an homage or celebration to both loving and intimate relationships and chosen family relationships within the queer community," she said. "The fighter side is honouring human rights and activism within our community."

Shahada — a critically-acclaimed film set in Berlin — details the struggles of three protagonists to reconcile their Muslim faith, cultural ties and personal desires. CONTRIBUTED BY THE VANCOUVER QUEER FILM FESTIVAL

The festival's 75 dramas, documentaries and comedies from 16 countries are meant to appeal to a broad audience, queer and straight, she said.

Shahada — a critically-acclaimed flick set in Berlin — is what Dawn refers to as a crossover film, because it encompasses straight stories, queer stories and a range of human experience. "The story focuses specifically on Muslim or Islamic-faithed people from all walks of life who are living in Berlin, so we're seeing young Turkish party girls, we're seeing very religious Muslims who are struggling with perhaps coming out, you're seeing a lot of complex stories," she said.

Fresh from rave reviews at the Sundance Film Festival is Mosquita y Mari, a film about two young Chicana girls in their senior year at an East L.A. inner-city high school. "It's a coming of age story that I think almost anyone could relate to." Dawn said.

Visit queerfilmfestival.ca.

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Ex-president of Penn State not in the clear: Lawyers

Spanier. Longtime head of school reeling from Sandusky scandal has kept a low profile but has not yet been charged with a crime

Former Penn State University president Graham Spanier. CAROLYN KASTER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

More than a month after an explosive investigative report accused Penn State's ousted president of burying child-sex-abuse allegations against Jerry Sandusky, Graham Spanier has so far avoided criminal charges — unlike two of his former subordinates.

That doesn't mean he's in the clear, according to legal experts.

As attorneys for athletic director Tim Curley and retired vice-president Gary Schultz urged a Dauphin County judge Thursday to dismiss the case against them, Spanier remains vulnerable to criminal charges over his alleged role in a scandal that has shaken Penn State to its core, outside lawyers said.

Former FBI director Louis Freeh's university-commissioned report that accused the ex-president — along with Curley, Schultz and football coach Joe Paterno — of covering up a 2001 allegation against Sandusky could help lay the groundwork for a prosecution.

"The Freeh report, whose findings of fact and conclusions were not challenged by PSU, suggests potential liability for Spanier," said Paul DerOhannesian, an Albany, N.Y., defence attorney and former sex-crimes prosecutor who has been following the Penn State case.

Fellow defence lawyer Will Spade, a former Philadelphia prosecutor who worked on a grand jury investigation of priests about a decade ago, said if he worked in the attorney general's office, he would "seriously be looking at" a criminal case against Spanier.

A spokesman in the attorney general's office, Nils Frederiksen, declined to comment, citing an "ongoing and active investigation" into the Sandusky matter.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Going to Graceland

Elvis Presley fans visit his grave at Graceland, Presley's Memphis, Tenn., home, on Thursday. Fans from around the world are at Graceland to commemorate the 35th anniversary of Presley's death. Presley died Aug. 16, 1977. MARK HUMPHREY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

$1.2M in damages

Hotel showed bias against Jews: Jury

A Muslim hotel owner discriminated against a Jewish group during a Southern California poolside charity event by ordering removal of banners and ousting them from the pool and spa, a jury has decided.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Missouri

Cause of mosque fire still unknown

Investigators announced Thursday that they have been unable to determine the cause of a suspicious fire that destroyed a southwest Missouri mosque that was a previous arson target.

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From left, Pussy Riot's Maria Alekhina, Yekaterina Samutsevich and Nadezhda Tolokonnikova.
MISHA JAPARIDZE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Judgment day for Russia's Pussy Riot

One of the key ideas behind the Russian punk provocateur band Pussy Riot was the supremacy of an idea over personality — thus the balaclavas that made the members both unrecognizable and fearsome.

But the three members who were jailed in March following a guerrilla performance denouncing President Vladimir Putin in Moscow's main cathedral have unwillingly emerged as vivid — and very different — characters. They await a verdict Friday on charges of hooliganism motivated by religious hatred.

One is a daring performance artist with a notorious part in a filmed orgy just days before she gave birth. Another is a poet and environmentalist with pre-Raphaelite looks. Rounding out the trio is a quietly cerebral computer expert, who has applied her skills both to nuclear submarines and experimental art.

If convicted they could be sentenced to up to seven years in prison. The trial has attracted worldwide attention as an emblem of Russia's intolerance of dissent.

Nadezhda Tolokonnikova, Maria Alekhina and Yekaterina Samutsevich came together several years ago in a confrontational art group called Voina (War), which attracted notice with risqué stunts. The group painted a 65-metre penis on a St. Petersburg drawbridge — visible in much of the city when the bridge rose — and in 2008 staged an orgy in a Moscow museum as a mocking commentary on Dmitry Medvedev's imminent election as Russian president.

The three also took part in a less-publicized punk performance in 2009 at the trial against a prominent art curator in a Moscow court, singing "All cops are scum."

Voina's chief ideologist Alexei Plutser-Sarno said the three "performed courageously" with the art group.

Tolokonnikova, 23, who was heavily pregnant when she appeared in the museum orgy, is the main face of Pussy Riot.

"We were looking for genuine sincerity and beauty and found it in our punk performances," said Tolokonnikova in her final statement at the trial last week.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

FOLLOW COVERAGE OF THEIR SENTENCING FRIDAY AT METRONEWS.CA

Worldwide protests

On Friday, activists in more than a dozen cities, from Moscow to Toronto, are expected to take to the streets at 2 p.m. Moscow time, an hour before the judge is to issue the verdict. The protests are being co-ordinated by defence lawyers.

- The women were little known before their brief impromptu performance in February. Dancing and high-kicking, they shouted the words of a "punk prayer" asking the Virgin Mary to deliver Russia from Putin, who was set to win a third term in March.

Supporter. 'Stay strong' McCartney tells Pussy Riot on eve of sentencing

Paul McCartney has sent support to Pussy Riot's members in Russia.

In a letter released Thursday, the former Beatle urged three members of all-female band Pussy Riot to "stay strong" and called on authorities to allow them freedom of speech.

McCartney said that "I and many others like me who believe in free speech will do everything in our power to support you and the idea of artistic freedom."

Other celebrities have also spoken out. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Paul McCartney during the opening of the Olympics. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Police search continues after body parts found in river near Toronto

Gruesome discovery. Police are still uncertain whether woman's head and a foot found at a suburban park belong to the same person

The gruesome discovery of a woman's head and a severed human foot in the river of a suburban park had police scouring the water, parklands and surrounding rocky hills Thursday in search of more body parts.

The foot also appears to belong to a female, as the toenails were painted yellow, police said, but until pathology tests are done investigators cannot say if both the head and the foot are from the same person.

"Without a cause of death we can't call it homicide, but certainly foul play — there's definitely something amiss," said Peel Regional Police Acting Insp. Randy Cowan.

The size of the body parts do not suggest they are from a child, Cowan said.

A group of hikers found the bare right foot severed from the ankle down Wednesday in the Credit River near Hewick Meadows Park, a popular spot for family walks in the quiet residential neighbourhood. The police marine unit found the head Thursday.

"It's a grim discovery any time we get these calls," Cowan said. "It's certainly disturbing."

Search crews, divers and dogs combed the area, and police expected to be on scene for at least two days. Investigators are also asking for the public's assistance.

Officers are sifting through missing-person reports, in case any have a link to the body parts, Cowan said.

"Typically in the region there are always a number of outstanding missing people," he said. "The majority of those return safely...We are going through those reports right now, reaching out to family members."

Investigators believe the body parts were severed in the last few weeks.

Police couldn't say if the body parts were placed there or if they drifted there from another point upstream in the river, which flows from headwaters above the Niagara Escarpment to Lake Ontario.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

A police dog searches the banks of the Credit River in Hewick Meadows Park in Mississauga, near Toronto, after police discovered a female severed head on Thursday. Hikers also found a severed human foot in the area the previous day. AARON VINCENT ELKAIM/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Ecuador grants asylum to WikiLeaks founder Assange

A masked supporter of WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange holds up a sign outside the Ecuadorian Embassy in London on Thursday. SANG TAN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

He's won asylum in Ecuador, but Julian Assange is no closer to getting there.

The decision by the Latin American nation to identify the WikiLeaks founder as a political refugee is a symbolic boost for the embattled ex-hacker. But legal experts say that does little to help him avoid extradition to Sweden on sexual-assault allegations.

Instead, with British officials asserting they won't grant Assange safe passage out of the country, the case has done much to drag the two nations into an international faceoff.

The silver-haired Australian shot to international prominence in 2010 after he began publishing a huge trove of American diplomatic and military secrets — including a quarter-million U.S. Embassy cables that shed a harsh light on the backroom dealings of U.S. diplomats.

Amid the ferment, two Swedish women accused him of sexual assault and Assange has been fighting extradition to Sweden ever since.

The convoluted saga took its latest twist on Thursday, when Ecuadorean Foreign Minister Ricardo Patino announced that he had granted political asylum to Assange, who has been holed up inside the small, coastal nation's embassy since June 19.

He said Ecuador was taking action because Assange faces a serious threat of unjust prosecution at the hands of U.S. officials.

Ecuador's decision was warmly received by the 41-year-old Assange, who watched as it was announced in a live televised news conference from Quito. In a statement he praised Ecuador's "courage."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Political gambit?

- Assange and others have expressed fears that the Swedish sex case is merely the opening gambit in a plot to make him stand trial in the United States.
- Patino said he tried to secure guarantees from the Americans, the British and the Swedes that Assange would not be extradited to the U.S., but was rebuffed by all three.

Unscheduled landing

Moscow flight faces bomb threat

An Aeroflot plane carrying 256 people from New York to Moscow made an unscheduled landing in Iceland on Thursday following a report of a bomb on board, authorities said. Police said no explosives were found after an extensive search.

The plane landed at Iceland's Keflavik International Airport where baggage and passengers were being inspected as part of the search for explosives. Two passengers were briefly taken into custody for questioning but were released.

Officials said all the passengers were safe and being taken care of by the Red Cross at the airport.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Centre evacuated

FedEx workers exposed to chili

More than 100 employees at the FedEx hub in Memphis were treated at the scene after a forklift punctured a barrel of concentrated chili pepper extract.

Memphis fire officials say the 19-litre container was damaged outside the building early Thursday morning and 117 employees were being evaluated and decontaminated.

Authorities identified the substance as liquid capsaicin, a chili pepper component that's also an active ingredient in pepper spray. Company spokesman Chris Stanley says this batch was destined for hot sauce.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Northern Alberta

Woman lost in bush finds shelter in remote cabin

An Alberta woman lost in northern bush for two weeks faced off with a bear, ate berries and sipped water from streams before she found a remote hunting cabin she believes saved her life.

Rhonda Cardinal recalled Thursday how she broke a small window to get into the cabin.

Inside, she found more water, canned food and socks for her blistered and infected feet.

On Wednesday she came across a road and within minutes waved down an oilfield worker driving by in his truck and told him her story. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Helicopter crash in Afghanistan kills 11

Conflicting reports. Taliban leaders say fighters shot down chopper, but U.S. officials refute bold claim as investigation into crash continues

Seven American troops and four Afghans died in a Black Hawk helicopter crash on Thursday in southern Afghanistan, the NATO military coalition said. The Taliban claimed their fighters shot down the aircraft.

The crash marked another deadly day for the U.S. in Afghanistan, less than a week after six American service members were gunned down, apparently by two members of the Afghan security forces they were training to take over the fight against the insurgency as international combat troops prepare to exit the country by the end of 2014.

The spike in American deaths and attacks by Afghan allies have stirred fresh doubts about the prospects for the U.S. plan to leave a capable Afghan government in place when most troops depart after more than a decade of war.

Spokesman Brig. Gen Gunter Katz said the NATO coalition is investigating the cause of Thursday's crash in Kandahar province, though U.S. officials said initial reports indicated it was not shot down.

Among the dead were seven American service members, three members of Afghan security forces and one Afghan civilian interpreter, said Jamie Graybeal, a spokesman for the coalition. He said there were no survivors of the crash. He declined to give any details on the mission of the helicopter, a UH-60 Black Hawk.

U.S. officials said three of the seven American troops killed were special operations forces — two Navy SEALS and a Navy explosives expert.

The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to disclose the information.

Taliban spokesman Qari Yousef Ahmadi said insurgent fighters shot down the helicopter in Kandahar province on Thursday morning.

However, U.S. officials said initial indications are that it was not shot down, though an investigation has been opened. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity the investigation is ongoing.

White House spokesman Jay Carney said it was too early to determine the cause of the crash.

Thursday's crash is the deadliest since a Turkish helicopter crashed into a house near the Afghan capital, Kabul, on March 16, killing 12 Turkish soldiers on board and four Afghan civilians on the ground, officials said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

All on board dead

"Nobody survived this."

Taliban spokesman Qari Yousef Ahmadi, describing Thursday's attack on a U.S. Black Hawk helicopter in Kandahar.

The battle for Kandahar

The Kandahar provincial government backed the Taliban claim saying the chopper was shot down in northern Kandahar's Shah Wali Kot district.

- **Taliban stronghold.** The region is the spiritual birthplace of the Islamist movement that ruled Afghanistan until the U.S. precipitated its demise.
- **Strategic value.** The area is also a key transit route where roadside bombs and assaults on police checkpoints are commonplace.

People from India's northeastern states crowd inside the compartment of a special train to return home on Thursday at a station in Bangalore, India. AIJAZ RAHI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Panic in India. Workers, students among mass exodus in Bangalore

Thousands of panic-stricken Indians from the northeast were fleeing the southern city of Bangalore on Thursday, spurred by rumours they would be attacked in retaliation for communal violence in their home state.

Hundreds of students and workers from Assam state crowded Bangalore's main railway station to try to board trains heading out of the city, while officials tried in vain to assure them of their safety. People pushed and shoved and some climbed in through train windows to make it past the crush at the doors.

The exodus followed clashes in Assam in recent weeks between members of the indigenous Bodo tribe and Muslims that killed more than 50 people and left 400,000 in displacement camps. The violence has spilled to other states where Bodos and other ethnic tribe members from the poor northeast have migrated in search of jobs.

Those fleeing Bangalore said they had heard text messages had been circulating threatening attacks by Muslims.

Jagadish Shettar, chief minister of Karnataka state, met separately with Assamese and Muslim leaders Thursday in an effort to restore calm. Bangalore is the capital of Karnataka.

Shettar said no one had seen any threatening text messages and authorities were trying to find out who was behind the rumours.

He said police and security forces were on alert and telephone helplines had been set up to give a sense of security to people in the city.

Despite Shettar's assurances, many from the northeast said they felt insecure.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Deadly attacks heighten security concerns in Pakistan

An aircraft is parked at an air-force base in Kamra, Pakistan, on Thursday. B.K. BANGASH/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Heavily armed Taliban fighters blasted their way into a Pakistani air-force base with possible links to the country's nuclear program in a brazen assault that took two hours of fighting to put down, leaving a security officer and nine insurgents dead and underscoring the group's continued threat despite numerous military offensives.

Hours later, Taliban gunmen in northern Pakistan forced 20 Shiite Muslims off buses, lined them up and killed them, the latest in a series of sectarian attacks that the government has seemingly done little to stop.

The separate incidents emphasize two daunting challenges the nuclear-armed country faces.

The Pakistani Taliban continue to pose a potent threat despite numerous military offensives against their sanctuaries along the Afghan border. At the same time, sectarian violence plagues the Sunni majority country where Shiite Muslims often feel under attack.

While the Pakistani Taliban have carried out hundreds of bombings and other attacks, raids against military bases are somewhat uncommon.

The group's spokesman, Ahsanullah Ahsan, said they carried out Thursday's predawn attack as revenge for the death of Pakistani Taliban leader Baitullah Mehsud in a U.S. drone strike in 2009 and the American commando raid that killed al-Qaida chief Osama bin Laden last year.

The large Air Force Base Minhas, located only about 40 kilometres northwest of Islamabad, hosts fighter jets, including F-16s, and contains a factory that makes aircraft and other weapons systems.

The weapons development and the presence of jets that could be used to deploy nuclear bombs have raised suspicions among some experts that the base is linked to Pakistan's nuclear arsenal.

However, no firm evidence has emerged, since the secrecy of the nuclear program makes independent evaluation difficult. The Pakistani military denies any connection between the base and the program.

The safety of the country's nuclear weapons has been a major concern for the United States. Western experts say Pakistan has about 100 nuclear weapons and is expanding its arsenal. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Crisis in Syria

Assad official denies claims that regime is crumbling

Syria's foreign minister defiantly dismissed rebel forces and their international backers on Thursday as incapable of toppling the military defending Bashar Assad's regime, even as condemnation grew over expanded offensives that activists say have claimed dozens of civilian lives in recent days.

Foreign Minister Walid al-Moallem's confident tone contrasted sharply with a series of recent blows to Assad, including high-level military and political defections and the ability of rebel guerrillas to stage bombings and abductions in the heart of the capital, Damascus.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Iran's political prisoners

130 post-election detainees pardoned

Iran's top leader has granted amnesty to 130 prisoners related to the 2009 post-election turmoil, a state-run newspaper reported Thursday.

Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei ordered immediate releases for some of the 130 and reduced prison terms for the rest on the occasion of the upcoming holiday ending the Islamic holy month of Ramadan.

Abbas Jafari Dowlatabadi, the prosecutor, called the prisoners "security convicts," a term used for those detained in the wave of unrest that followed the controversial re-election of President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Attacks in Iraq

Insurgents unleash fresh campaign of carnage, chaos

Insurgents unleashed a wave of attacks Thursday that killed 28 people and wounded dozens in central and northern Iraq, the latest in a series of strikes aimed at undermining the government.

The bomb and shooting attacks made for the country's deadliest day in more than three weeks, rattling nerves as families prepared to gather for a holiday weekend. More than 120 people have been killed in violence across the country since the start of August, showing that insurgents led by al-Qaida's Iraqi franchise remain a lethal force eight months after the last U.S. troops left.

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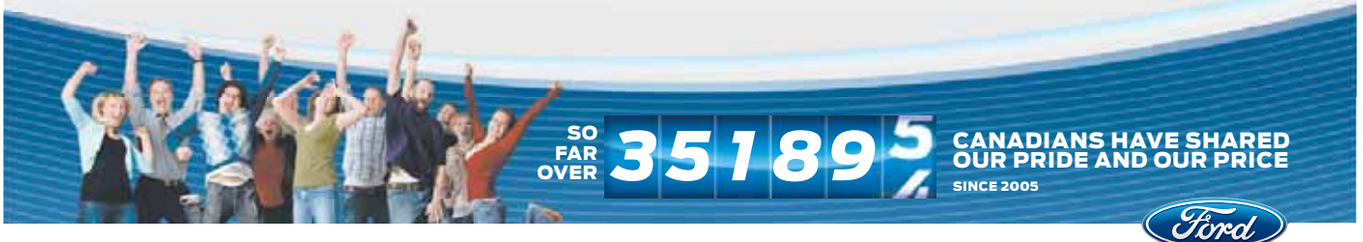

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Non-Ford owners can enter by mailing an original 100 word essay on "what they like about Ford", with their full name, full mailing address, email, daytime phone number (with area code) to: Vanessa Richard, Pareto Corp., 1 Concorde Gate, Suite 200, Toronto, ON, M3C 4G4. Contest closes at 11:59pm (PST) on the last day of the 2012 Ford Employee Pricing campaign which will be no earlier than August 31, 2012. Limit of 1 entry per person. Up to 8 prizes available to be won in Canada in 3 possible prize categories, each worth up to CAD$50,000. Chances of winning are dependent on the total number of entries received up to each 10,000 interval of unit sales under the Employee Pricing campaign ("Draw Trigger"). Odds of winning decrease as the contest progresses, more entries are made into the contest, and opportunities for Draw Triggers lessen. 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Delivery Allowances can be used in conjunction with most retail consumer offers made available by Ford of Canada at either the time of factory order or delivery, but not both. Delivery Allowances are not combinable with any fleet consumer incentives. Employee Pricing is not combinable with CPA, GPC, CFP, Daily Rental Allowance and A/X/Z/D/F-Plan programs. †Until August 31st, 2012, receive 0%/0.99% APR purchase financing on new 2012 Ford Focus (excluding S)/Fiesta (excluding S) models for a maximum of 60/72 months to qualified retail customers, on approved credit (OAC) from Ford Credit. Not all buyers will qualify for the lowest interest rate. Example: $20,000 purchase financed at 0%/0.99% APR for 60/72 months, monthly payment is $333.33/$286.22, cost of borrowing is $0/$608.13 or APR of 0%/0.99% and total to be repaid is $20,000/$20,608.13. Down payment on purchase financing offers may be required based on approved credit from Ford Credit. Taxes payable on full amount of purchase price. ***Estimated fuel consumption ratings for model shown: 2012 Fiesta 1.6L I4 5-speed Manual transmission: [6.9L/100km (41MPG) City, 5.1L/100km (55MPG) Hwy] / 2012 Focus 2.0L I4 5-speed Manual transmission: [7.8L/100km (36MPG) City, 5.5L/100km (51MPG) Hwy] / 2012 Fusion 2.5L I4 6-speed automatic transmission: [9.0L/100km (31MPG) City, 6.0L/100km (47MPG) Hwy] / 2013 Escape 1.6L EcoBoost FWD: [9.1L/100km (31MPG) City, 6.0L/100km (47MPG) Hwy. Fuel consumption ratings based on Transport Canada approved test methods. Actual fuel consumption will vary based on road conditions, vehicle loading, vehicle equipment, and driving habits. ◆Some mobile phones and some digital media players may not be fully compatible – check www.syncmyride.com for a listing of mobile phones, media players, and features supported. Driving while distracted can result in loss of vehicle control, accident and injury. Ford recommends that drivers use caution when using mobile phones, even with voice commands. Only use mobile phones and other devices, even with voice commands, not essential to driving when it is safe to do so. SYNC is optional on most new Ford vehicles. ◆◆Remember that even advanced technology cannot overcome the laws of physics. It's always possible to lose control of a vehicle due to inappropriate driver input for the conditions. †††©2012 Sirius Canada Inc. "SiriusXM", the SiriusXM logo, channel names and logos are trademarks of SiriusXM Radio Inc. and are used under licence. ©2012 Ford Motor Company of Canada, Limited. All rights reserved.

Waterboarding. Doctor denies experimenting on daughter for research

A U.S. doctor on Thursday denied allegations of waterboarding his 11-year-old stepdaughter as part of his research into near-death experiences.

"How could anybody do such a thing?" Dr. Melvin Morse said while awaiting the start of a preliminary hearing on felony charges of child endangerment and conspiracy.

Police suggested in a search-warrant affidavit that Morse may have been experimenting on his stepdaughter as part of his research by bringing her "to a possible near-death state from the simulation of drowning."

"I haven't done near-death research in 15 years," Morse said.

Melvin Morse DELAWARE STATE POLICE FILE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

He declined to comment specifically on the charges against him, referring questions to his lawyer.

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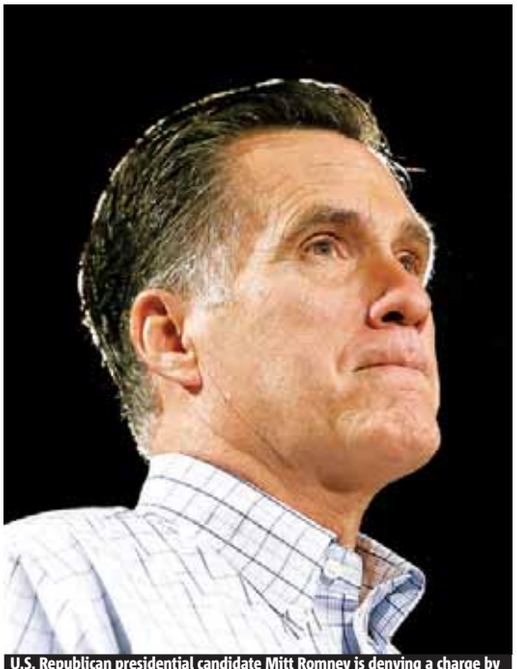
Source of allegations

- The allegations of waterboarding came after Morse was accused of grabbing the girl by the ankle in July and, as her sister, 6, watched, dragging her across a driveway. He was arrested on misdemeanour endangerment and assault charges and released on bail.
- When the older girl was interviewed by police last week, she told investigators her father also had disciplined her by holding her face under a running faucet at least four times since 2009, a punishment she said her father called "waterboarding."

Romney challenges charge he didn't pay income tax



U.S. Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney is denying a charge by Democratic Sen. Harry Reid that he did not pay his taxes for multiple years. JUSTIN SULLIVAN/GETTY IMAGES FILE

U.S. presidential race.
Obama camp dares Republican candidate to release returns from earlier years

U.S. Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney said Thursday that he has never paid less than 13 per cent of his income in taxes during the past decade.

But he declined anew to release the records that would prove it.

"I did go back and look at my taxes and over the past 10 years I never paid less than 13 per cent. I think the most recent year is 13.6 or something like that. So I paid taxes every single year," Romney told reporters after landing in South Carolina for a fundraiser.

Quoted

"I paid taxes every single year."

U.S. presidential candidate Mitt Romney

Romney has released his 2010 tax return and has pledged to release his 2011 return before the Nov. 6 election, but has refused to release returns from earlier years.

Democratic Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, citing an anonymous source, has charged that Romney didn't want to release any more of his returns because the Republican candidate had paid no taxes in some years.

"Harry Reid's charge is totally false. I'm sure waiting for Harry to put up who it was that told him what he says they told him," Romney said.

The Obama campaign's Lis Smith responded by telling Romney to "prove it."

"He has forfeited the right to have us take him just at his word," Smith said.

White House spokesman Jay Carney declined to comment on Romney's tax rate. He said Democratic President Barack Obama believes "the tradition for presidential candidates to put forward multiple years of their tax returns is a useful and valuable one. Not always comfortable."

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GOING A LONG WAY TO GIVE BACK

As a group of trekkers faced an arduous route through the Andes to Machu Picchu, they at least knew the first part of their challenge was already behind them: To come on the trip, they had to raise thousands of dollars for charity. Metro's Matt Kieltyka went along to discover why these travellers were so determined to change the world while they were seeing it.

Having conquered his fear of heights and raised thousands of dollars for Children with Cancer UK, Oliver Lewis is finally able to enjoy sunrise in the lost Incan city of Machu Picchu, Peru, on Aug. 3. MATT KIELTYKA/METRO

MATT KIELTYKA
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One foot in front of the other. One step at a time.

It's a rule to live by for adventurers trekking through the Peruvian Andes.

When you're short of breath from the incredible altitudes and fatigued from hours of walking through intimidating mountainous terrain, sometimes the trick is to just keep going. Take enough small steps and you'll eventually reach your goal.

Nottingham, England, resident Oliver Lewis, 28, experienced that on a recent trek through the remote Lares Valley and on the classic Inca trail to Machu Picchu.

Even when a very real fear of heights threatened to stop him in his tracks — no thanks to a cow inexplicably and stubbornly resting on a narrow ledge high above the rainforest — Lewis was able to shimmy around the beast and over the vertigo-inducing trail, albeit while clinging onto his guide's walking poles for dear life.

One step at a time. It's a mantra his entire family is now intimately familiar with. Lewis's five-year-old nephew, Thomas, is on a much different kind of journey, having been being diagnosed with leukemia in December.

Together, the family has been taking it one step at a time as Thomas endures chemotherapy to treat the disease. Those difficult steps are what brought Lewis to Peru and what forced him to face his fears head-on.

"I've been trying to get my head around what I can do to give something back. Not just to my nephew, but other people who are affected by that same disease," Lewis says.

The desire to do something positive in the face of his family's adversity led Lewis to Charity Challenge, a U.K.-based adventure tour company that requires clients to raise money for charity before taking off.

He instantly gravitated to their trip to Machu Picchu — the forgotten Incan city and one of the New Seven Wonders of the World.

"If a five-year-old can go through chemotherapy and all the nastiness that goes with it, then I can do my best to raise money for charity and conquer my fear of heights," he says.

"I can't imagine what my sister is going through, so for me this is a way of saying, 'I admire what you're doing and I want to do something to give back and show I can do more.'"

> "If a five-year-old can go through chemotherapy and all the nastiness that goes with it, then I can do my best to raise money for charity and conquer my fear of heights." Charity Challenge participant Oliver Lewis

With the help of his family, Lewis — who lost his father to cancer — had raised more than $8,500 for Children with Cancer UK by the time he embarked on his trip to Peru in late July.

Once there, he met a group of strangers all equally committed to and personally affected by a cause — whether that was overcoming cancer, arthritis, poverty or heart disease, or providing care for terminally ill patients.

Along the way, they pushed each other to complete sometimes-gruelling days through the vast Lares Valley and climb thousands of stairs up to Machu Picchu. They consoled each other when sickness or injury cut a hiker's day short.

The group donated school supplies to beaming children in remote villages and was greeted by descendants of the Incans, with their stunningly bright and colourful hand-woven alpaca clothing.

His trek may be over, but Lewis is eager to retrace his steps, this time at Thomas's side.

Armed with new, awe-inspiring tales of Andean children, towering heights, ancient cities and adventure, Lewis is helping Thomas on his journey.

"That's the icing on the cake," Lewis says, smiling. "I can go home, show him pictures and give him funny, strange little Peruvian presents that he probably hasn't even imagined existed."

Oliver Lewis is pictured with his five-year-old nephew, Thomas. Lewis recently completed a nine-day Charity Challenge trek through Peru to raise money for Children with Cancer UK. CONTRIBUTED

Witnessing disparity along the Inca trail

The South American country of Peru is a rapidly developing nation and a hotbed for tourism because of its coastal charm, lost Incan treasures, Amazonian allure and Andean peaks. But behind the big cities and strong agricultural traditions, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) says chronic malnutrition still exists to an alarming degree.

"Peru is an interesting place because it's technically a middle-income country with dropping levels of poverty," explains Meg French, UNICEF Canada's director of international programs. "Things look like they are improving, but the national figures are a little bit misleading."

Conditions for children in urban populations have been rapidly improving — with malnutrition rates below 10 per cent — but indigenous, rural populations still have chronic malnutrition rates of about 30 per cent.

For an outsider it's a difficult concept to grasp, given how many families make a living off Peru's fertile farmlands. The problem, says UNICEF co-ordinator Deisy Moscoso, is that those families often sell their crops for profit and restrict their own children's diets to soups.

Moscoso is based in Cusco, a sprawling Andean city renowned as the capital of the Incan empire, where more than a million tourists pass through annually on their way to Machu Picchu. But beyond the city boundaries, many of the indigenous Quechuas still lack the knowledge to properly feed children under the age of three, stunting their development.

"It's tricky because you don't see full-out malnutrition," says French. "Some of the children can look very healthy at first glance, but that doesn't mean they're getting the right nutrients and vitamins. On the inside, their brains may not be developing the same, and it affects everything from health to intellectual development." MATT KIELTYKA/METRO

Towering mountains and thin air made for a difficult journey through the Peruvian Andes, but also offered unforgettable sights. MATT KIELTYKA/METRO

A young Quechuan girl holds an apple given to her by one of the hikers. Children dressed in traditional clothing often ran out of their homes to greet the group as it passed remote Andean villages. MATT KIELTYKA/METRO

Ready for a Challenge?

If you've been inspired by Matt's experience, you can join one of more than 50 challenges around the world, including climbing Kilimanjaro in Africa, trekking on the Great Wall of China or cycling from Havana to Trinidad, all in aid of the Canadian charity of your choice. Visit charitychallenge.ca for the full list of challenges available.

And if you're one of the next 10 people to sign up for the trek to Machu Picchu on May 3, 2013, in aid of UNICEF, or on May 10, 2013, in aid of the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation, you can get $150 off the cost of the challenge by entering the special promotional code METROUNICEF05032013 for UNICEF, and METROCBCF05102013 for the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation.

For music, more pictures and a diary of Matt's trip to Machu Picchu, visit metronews.ca.

Meet the Machu Picchu trekkers

MATT KIELTYKA/METRO

1 Lianne Azzopardi.
Charity: Cancer Research UK

"All my friends go on party holidays and I really didn't want to do that. I wanted to do something that made more of a difference. I had already signed up to do a community action project, which is how I found out about Charity Challenge and why I ended up on this trek. Like many people here, I did it for cancer research because cancer seems to affect everyone. My grandfather died of cancer, my grandmother survived it and my friend's mom just got the all-clear of cancer, as well."

2 Rosalind Havemann.
Charity: Leukaemia and Lymphoma Research

"I'm doing this trek in memory of my dad, who died of lymphoma seven years ago. I've raised (about $4,600) for Leukaemia and Lymphoma Research. It's also been a personal journey for me ... a bit of a midlife crisis. I've really loved doing the trekking and meeting everyone. Probably the best bit has been the really remote areas and meeting the local people. Peru has been a very special place in more than one way."

3 Steve Jackson.
Charity: Cancer Research UK

"I originally set out doing the trek for Cancer Research UK because my close friend's mother was taken by cancer ... and then one of the girls I worked with quite closely since I decided to do it was diagnosed with cancer. Six months after I decided to do the trek, my grandfather hadn't been well, and we couldn't quite figure out what was wrong with him. He was diagnosed with lymphoma cancer and died very quickly after being diagnosed. I wanted to do it for him as well, in memory of him."

Ikea. Furniture giant to launch budget-hotel chain

Best known for its budget flat-pack furniture, Scandinavian retailer Ikea is planning to launch a chain of budget hotels in Europe.

The property division of Inter Ikea — the company that owns the Ikea intellectual-property rights — is planning hotels in 100 locations across Europe.

The first two hotels are expected to open in Germany in 2014. Other locations earmarked for hotels include Belgium, the Netherlands, the Nordic countries, Britain and Poland.

Inter Ikea, which already owns a handful of hotels in Europe since the start-up of the property division in the 1990s, will work with another company to operate the chain.

Ikea, the world's largest furniture retailer, employs 131,000 people in 41 countries and its 287 stores drew in 655 million customers in 2011.

The company has branched out from its traditional role of furniture store before. In the late 1990s, its retail store arm formed a joint venture, BoKlok, together with Swedish construction group Skanska AB to build affordable flat-pack housing. Earlier this year, the Ikea Group announced a collaboration deal with Chinese consumer electronics firm TCL under which it would start selling TV's and sound systems integrated into Ikea furniture.

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Maintaining philosophy

Although the hotel chain won't use Ikea's name or furniture, it will ingrain the Ikea philosophy of "good quality at a reasonable price," says Harald Muller, a Brussels-based business-development manager of Inter Ikea's property division.

- The hotels will have a Scandinavian "feel" because the interior will be made by Nordic designers, but aside from that, "guests won't really recognize Ikea in it," Muller says.

Market Minute

DOLLAR 101.35¢ (+0.24¢)

TSX 12,032.58 (+127.14)

OIL $95.60 US (+$1.27)

GOLD $1,619.20 US (+$12.60)

Natural gas: $2.72 US (-2.4¢)
Dow Jones: 13,250.11 (+85.33)

Facebook shares hit new low as lockup period ends

Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg is ineligible to sell his shares in the company until November. Those eligible to sell stock on Thursday were the investors and directors who had participated in the May IPO, as well as Microsoft Corp., an early Facebook investor. KEVORK DJANSEZIAN/GETTY IMAGES FILE

Declining stock. Early investors of the social-networking site get the option to sell after ban is lifted

Facebook's stock plunged below $20 US Thursday after the expiration of a ban that had prevented some early investors and insiders from dumping millions of additional shares they own in the social-networking leader.

Firms ranging from Accel Partners to Goldman Sachs, Zynga CEO Mark Pincus and Facebook board members James Breyer, Peter Thiel and Reid Hoffman were among those free to sell stock they own, after the lifting of a ban known as a lockup period.

It's not yet known whether any of those investors had sold any stock because they have three business days to disclose any sales, said Sam Hamadeh, the CEO of PrivCo, which researches privately held companies. But many of them likely did, he said.

If in fact many of them took advantage, Facebook's stock could decline because the market would be flooded with nearly two-thirds more shares.

Thursday was only the first of several lockup expiration dates for Facebook's stock. The biggest one is coming in the fall.

Facebook's stock traded as low as $19.69 before bouncing back slightly. The shares closed Thursday at $19.87, down $1.33, or more than six per cent. Its initial public-offering price was $38 back in May.

The previous low during the day was $19.82 and the previous low for a close was $20.04, both reached Aug. 2.

It has been a rough run for Facebook. After one of the most-anticipated IPOs in history, Facebook suffered what may be the most-botched public offering as trading glitches marred its first day. It's been almost all downhill for the Menlo Park., Calif., company since then.

Facebook's stock is likely to be volatile until the end of the year, when the majority of the lockups expire. Hamadeh called them a "dark cloud on the horizon."

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Eligible shares

1.91B

Only 271 million shares became eligible for trading Thursday, but by the time all the lockups expire, that amount will rise to 1.91 billion.

U.S. companies pay more to CEOs than federal tax: Study

Twenty-six big U.S. companies paid their CEOs more last year than they paid the federal government in tax, according to a study released Thursday by a liberal-leaning think-tank.

The study, by the Institute for Policy Studies, said the companies, including AT&T, Boeing and Citigroup, paid their CEOs an average of $20.4 million US last year while paying little or no federal tax on ample profits, according to regulatory filings.

On average, the 26 companies generated net income of more than $1 billion in the U.S., the study said.

The study blasted tax rules allowing unlimited deductions for CEO "performance-based" pay, like many stock options. It said the five biggest performance payers among the 26 companies took $232 million of these deductions last year.

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Quoted

"Our nation's tax code has become a powerful enabler of bloated CEO pay."

A quote from a report by The Institute for Policy Studies

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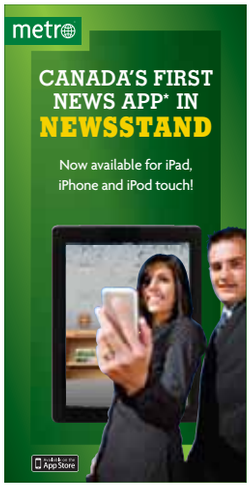

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A PIXIE CUT, A WICKED ROAD TRIP AND THE DEATH OF AN ICON

THE LIST
Neil Morton
Metro

1 Hairgate. Miley Cyrus went all hairy on Twitter, posting a pile of pics of her new, dramatic pixie cut. Her tweets included lines like "Never felt more me in my whole life," "Someone just told me I'm prettier than Miley Cyrus" and "Feeling so happy in my skin." While her new style got mixed reactions, just watch pixie cuts come back. I'm getting one next week.

2 Sexting. I nearly dropped the F-bomb when I heard only now has the mainstream Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary added "sexting" to its latest edition. I mean, what the heck took so long? And, oh yeah, F-bomb — well, it's been finally added now, too.

3 Colour in Ryan Gosling. Colour Me Good Ryan Gosling, a new colouring-in book of the Hollywood hunk, is out. Touted as "the hottest colouring-in book of all time," it features 15 pages of Gosling in different poses and actions. So while you may not actually ever be able to touch Ryan Gosling in person, at least you can colour him in.

4 Sparkle. Whitney Houston's final role in the remake of the musical Sparkle can be seen starting Friday. The movie, which centres around three singing teenage sisters from Harlem who form a girl group in the late 1950s (Houston plays the mother), is dedicated to her memory. This role should be how she is remembered now, rather than how she died.

5 Olympics' closing. The amazing 2012 London Olympics ended with a psychedelic mashup ceremony including performances by the Who, Annie Lennox and the reunited Spice Girls (who averaged 116,000 tweets per minute during their performance, according to Twitter) ... and Kate and her brother-in-law Harry in the stands rocking out. Pure Gold.

6 Lakers are back. The Miami Heat's chances of repeating as NBA champions took a serious block with word the L.A. Lakers had acquired star centre Dwight Howard from Orlando. So let's see, the Lakers now have Kobe Bryant, Steve Nash, Howard and Pau Gasol. As Kobe said, this team is "locked and loaded to bring back the title." Better happen with this dream team assembled.

7 Ebook sensation. By taking the gamble to publish Finding Karla, on serial killer Karla Homolka, as an ebook rather than a hardcover book or long magazine piece, writer Paula Todd has changed the game of non-fiction publishing. Her "breaking news" ebook is a hit, holding down the top position on Amazon Kindle's non-fiction-singles bestseller list.

8 Aniston, take two. The woman whose heart was broken by Brad Pitt in 2005 will be walking down the aisle again, this time with Justin Theroux (her co-star in Wanderlust). They announced their engagement on the weekend after dating for over a year. Heck, they've already morphed into a clone couple, dressing alike. Ugh, just like Jen and Brad used to.

9 Cross-Canada Facebook. Trent University grad Greg Mountenay had the ultimate Canadian road trip this summer, visiting 300 of his Facebook friends across the country in a promotion sponsored by Canadian Tire while blogging about his adventures. I'm one airline/five-star-hotel sponsor away from going to visit some of my 600 Twitter followers.

10 K'naan. The Toronto rapper/poet/songwriter has announced plans to publish a children's picture book based on his life. When I Get Older: The Story Behind Wavin' Flag will be released in September and focus on how his family escaped their native Somalia during the 1991 civil war. This will be sure to inspire a whole generation of kids.

11 Helen Gurley Brown. The author of the iconic Sex and the Single Girl (1962) — sex and the city long before Sex and the City — died Monday at the age of 90. As editor of Cosmopolitan from 1965 to 1997, she was all about empowering modern women to enjoy sex and she changed the way other media focused on women and sexuality. Men thank you, too, Helen.

12 The mo is hot! A new book coming out from Toronto-based author Allan Peterkin, One Thousand Mustaches: A Cultural History of the Mo, looks at how the 'stache has undergone a cultural renaissance, mainly due to the international success of Movember. It's both a "lighthearted cultural history and an earnest style manual." Get it before you grow one.

Way to plant one on her

CAROLYN KASTER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Smooching

Plaque marks Obamas' first kiss

U.S. President Barack Obama kisses his wife Michelle Obama on stage at a campaign event at the Alliant Energy Amphitheater Wednesday in Dubuque, Iowa, during a campaign bus tour through the state.

The president first kissed his wife outside a Chicago ice-cream shop — and there's a plaque to prove it.

The owners of a Hyde Park shopping centre installed the 1,360-kilogram granite marker this week with a plaque reading: "On this site, President Barack Obama first kissed Michelle Obama."

There's a picture of the first couple and a quote from the president describing their first date.

The sweet smooch happened in 1989, when the future president treated the first-lady-to-be to ice cream at a Baskin-Robbins, which is now a Subway restaurant.

The Obamas will celebrate their 20th wedding anniversary this October.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

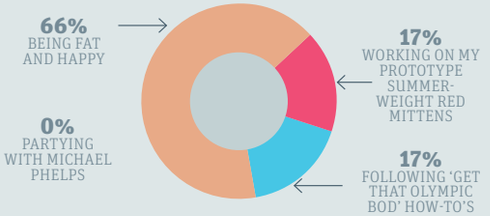
"On our first date, I treated her to the finest ice cream Baskin-Robbins had to offer, our dinner table doubling as the curb. I kissed her, and it tasted like chocolate."
PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA
On this site, President Barack Obama first kissed Michelle Obama

A 1,360-kilogram granite marker sits at the corner of Dorchester and 53rd streets in Chicago. CHARLES REX ARBOGAST/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Metropolitan Panel

Register at metropolitanpanel.ca and take the quick poll

How are you planning to spend the four years until the next Summer Olympics?


66% BEING FAT AND HAPPY
17% WORKING ON MY PROTOTYPE SUMMER-WEIGHT RED MITTENS
0% PARTYING WITH MICHAEL PHELPS
17% FOLLOWING 'GET THAT OLYMPIC BOD' HOW-TO'S

Twitter

@LibationsDun: #Vancouver heat wave... Keep cool with some ICE COLD #Beer!!!

@VeesEye: Dear Vancouver, 33 degrees with a pleasant breeze is not a heat wave. Settle down.

@BLong89: The only thing worse than working in the ridiculous heat is not being out on the boat with some cold buds.. #Vancouver #summertime

@Lemerific: Amazingly, we have heat... some of us don't know what to do with it, the same as when it snows!

@rachelisms: Another day to melt under the sun ! Lovin this heat lovin the fresh cool breeze that comes with it! Vancouver, you're pulling thru

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It's up to Norman to save his town from a witch's curse. HANDOUT

Reel Guys

RICHARD CROUSE AND MARK BRESLIN

A spooky spectacle

ParaNorman. Kid's movie is decidedly dark, but doesn't have much to offer the really young or older crowds

Richard: Mark, it's been a long time since a kid's movie this dark has been unleashed on our unsuspecting youth. ParaNorman harkens back to a time when Disney used to make creepy cartoons like The Legend of Sleepy Hollow; before it was decided that kids shouldn't be exposed to anything except talking animals and stories about ecology. I loved it. It's strange and weird, and parents should understand it could induce nightmares in the really young, but it's good.

Mark: I can understand why you liked it, and it does seem like a throwback to a time before merchandised characters, but to me it felt like Tim Burton Lite. The test of an animated feature is whether a parent can enjoy it while their kids are watching it, and the answer is yes — but barely. It's surely no Shrek or Toy Story. It seems to skew pretty young, and I was restless throughout. But that may be about the kind of animation that was used — a digital, 3D, version of stop-motion cartoons. The look just didn't appeal to me, although it did contribute to the eeriness.

RC: I hear that, but I thought the 3D and scene composition gave it the look of beautiful, old View-Master slides. The stop motion work is lovingly handmade looking, giving the whole thing an organic coating that slicker, computer generated movies simply don't have. As for who this movie is for… well, I'm not exactly sure. Certainly not for little kids, but I thought parents and kids who enjoy getting mildly creeped-out, would find lots to like here.

MB: Matter of taste, I suppose. On another note, although you can't really talk about the acting in an animated film, you can talk about the voices. And there were two voices that need to be singled out for praise. The first is Jeff Garlin, from Curb Your Enthusiasm, whose aggrieved rasp was perfect for the father, and Casey Affleck, whose trippy drawl gave his jock bodybuilder a very original sound.

RC: I liked the voice work as well. I also enjoyed the writing. Lines like "Not believing in the afterlife is like not believing in astrology," are more sophisticated than the writing in your average kid's flick.

MB: I only wish there more of those lines!

Synopsis

Norman (voice of Kodi Smit-McPhee) is a 12-year-old who can see dead people. And talk to them, too. His unique gift, however, is unappreciated by his family, the townsfolk of Blithe Hollow and schoolmates, who call him AbNorman. He's an outsider, with only one friend, Neil (Tucker Albrizzi). When an old tale about a witch who cursed the town's forefathers to die a gruesome death and later rise from their graves comes true, Norman is the only person who can save the town.

- Richard: ●●●●○
- Mark: ●●○○○

2SCENE

On the web

Universal still pursuing Snow White sequel, but Kristen Stewart's role unlikely

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Drama

Sparkle

Director. Salim Akil

Stars. Jordin Sparks, Whitney Houston

Sparkle is a clichéd remake of a musical about an aspiring talent (Jordin Sparks), her conservative mother (the late Whitney Houston) and her singing siblings as they become a rising force in the 1960s. A familiar showbiz tale of betrayal and redemption, there's little originality in this faux biography except maybe its awareness about what it really is: a posthumous swan song for the driving force behind it getting made in the first place — Whitney Houston.

STEVE GOW

Horror

The Awakening

Director. Nick Murphy

Stars. Rebecca Hall, Dominic West, Imelda Staunton

Bearing a similarity in set-up to Rodrigo Cortes' recent film Red Lights, The Awakening is a much more satisfying and eerie exercise in fright. The setting is post First World War England, and a young celebrity paranormal researcher (Rebecca Hall), who spends her time debunking charlatan hauntings, is summoned to a private school to put their ghost stories to rest. Problem is, there may be more truth than fiction to the goings on. When it comes to slow, understated and elegant psychological spook shows, the Brits have been masters, and The Awakening is no exception.

CHRIS ALEXANDER

Action

The Expendables 2

Director. Simon West

Stars. Sylvester Stallone, Jason Statham, Chuck Norris

You can't take a film like The Expendables 2 seriously. After all, any movie that begins with the most gratuitous body count sequence since Team America isn't taking itself seriously either. Although a plot is negligible, it's certainly beside the point. Instead, Sly Stallone and Company continue their winking homage to '80s action by amping up the destruction and slipping in cheesy one-liners. It's not going to win any awards but it is stupid fun for a Friday night.

STEVE GOW

Documentary

Fortunate Son

Director. Tony Asimakopoulos

Stars. Tony Asimakopoulos, Aristomenis Assimakopoulos, Vassiliki Assimakopoulos

Tony Asimakopoulos is the Fortunate Son, the only son of Greek immigrants in Montreal, who fled the family home to escape his parents' grip, fell into drug addiction and stayed away for 10 years. The film begins at a difficult time; Asimakopoulos has returned with new fiancée Natalie on his arm, to confront the family dynamic in hopes of healing his anger and anxiety. Add to the equation his mother's aggression and overwhelming need, his father's cancer ... it's a potent, volatile and painfully claustrophobic mix.

ANNE BRODIE

Drama

Compliance

Director. Craig Zobel

Stars. Ann Dowd, Dreama Walker

Craig Zobel's queasy drama about a fast-food restaurant plagued by a perverted crank caller is one of the most pressurized American movies in recent memory. Realistically staged and occasionally difficult to watch, Compliance goes beyond its based-on-a-true-story hook; it's got the shapeliness and finesse of a great thriller.

ADAM NAYMAN

Comedy

2 Days in New York

Director. Julie Delpy

Stars. Julie Delpy, Chris Rock

An American-set sequel to Julie Delpy's 2007 comedy 2 Days in Paris, this movie involves the actress-turned-director and her on-screen husband Chris Rock hosting the former's wacky dysfunctional family of French sex-obsessed pot-smokers in Manhattan. As appealing as Rock is (playing the straight-man), the laughs are few.

STEVE GOW

Documentary

Searching for Sugar Man

Director. Malik Bendjelloul

Rumours about his demise trumped recognition of talented American singer/songwriter Rodriguez. He made two albums that were, unknown to him, huge hits in South Africa. **ANNE BRODIE**

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Joel Edgerton
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Kristen Bell fails to app-ease Grindr

Dax Shepard and Kristen Bell star in Hit & Run, which opens next Friday. HANDOUT

Hit & Run. Star of car-chase comedy tried to get the company behind a hookup app on board to use their name in the film — they didn't believe it was her calling

NED EHRBAR
Metro World News in Hollywood

In the plot of Hit & Run, Dax Shepard's self-produced car chase comedy, there's an iPhone app that keeps popping up that bears a striking resemblance to the popular gay hook-up app Grindr. Only in the film the app — goes by the name Pouncer. "They did not let us use their name. We did start with trying to have Grindr in the movie," Shepard explains. "It was a blessing that they said no because Pouncer is a lot funnier name than Grindr, so we were happy that it didn't work."

Shepard's co-star and fiancée, Kristen Bell, spearheaded the effort to get the iPhone app on board, but that campaign was short-lived, as she explains. "They were initially flattered, and they read the script. But then I think that through talking to people in their office, somehow there was an insecurity that manifested of were we making fun of them? Which we weren't," she says. "We actually have friends that use Grindr, and it's hilarious that you can hook up with someone two feet away from you — whether it's gay or straight. I think that they just felt like it was exploiting or making fun of them, and in the end they did not return our phone calls."

Shepard and Bell hardly need to prove their gay-friendly bona fides, though. The long-engaged couple has stated numerous times that they won't be tying the knot themselves until gay marriage is relegalized in California. And in the script for Hit & Run, Bell's character takes Shepard's character to task for using needlessly homophobic language. So maybe it's really Grindr's loss.

"I think they're not happy now that they said no," Shepard offers.

As the couple learned recently, though, the Grindr folks might have stopped returning their calls for a very different reason.

"I just heard through the grapevine — through a friend of mine who's sleeping with one of the Grindr owners — that they never really, truly believed it was [Bell,]" Shepard says.

"I did all the product placement because we selfishly thought, well maybe if I make the call maybe there's a chance that it might get a little further," Bell explains. "So I prayed and hoped that someone recognized the name, but in this case apparently they thought it was a joke."

Quoted

"I just heard through the grapevine ... that they never really, truly believed it was (Bell)."

Dax Shepard on Grindr not answering Kristen Bell's request to use their name in the movie.

Vancouver

OMNIMAX Theatre Science World 1455 Quebec St.

Arabia (STC) Fri-Thu 3
Hubble (STC) Fri-Thu 1
Rocky Mountain Express (STC) Fri-Thu 12-2-4

Denman Cinemas 1779 Comox, 604-558-3456

360 (14A) Fri-Thu 2
Madagascar 3: Europe's Most Wanted (G) Fri-Thu 12:15
Men in Black 3 (PG) Fri-Thu 9:15
Snow White and the Huntsman (PG) Fri-Thu 4:20
Step Up Revolution (PG) Fri-Sun 7 Tue 7 Thu 7

Dunbar Theatre 4555 Dunbar Street

The Bourne Legacy (PG) Fri 7-9:45 Sat-Sun 3:45-7-9:45 Mon-Thu 7-9:45
Fifth Avenue Cinemas
2110 Burrard Street, 604-734-7469
2 Days in New York (14A) Fri-Thu 1:45-4:30-7:30-9:40
The Dark Knight Rises (PG) Fri-Thu 3:45-7-10:15
ParaNorman 3D (STC) Fri-Thu 1-3-5-7:20-9:30
The Queen of Versailles (G) Fri-Sun 1:30-4-7:10-9:20 Mon 1:30-4-9:20 Tue-Thu 1:30-4-7:10-9:20
To Rome With Love (PG) Fri-Thu 1:15-4:15-6:50-9:10

Granville 855 Granville St.

Beasts of the Southern Wild (PG) Fri 6:45-9:30 Sat-Sun 4-6:45-9:30 Mon-Thu 5:45-8:20
The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel (G) Fri 6:40-9:15 Sat-Sun 4:05-6:40-9:15 Mon-Thu 5:30-8:10
Celeste and Jesse Forever (14A) Fri 6:35-9:20 Sat-Sun 4:20-6:35-9:20 Mon-Thu 5:40-8:30
The Hunger Games (PG) Mon-Thu 8
Magic Mike (14A) Fri 7-9:35 Sat 4:15-7-9:35 Sun 9:35 Mon-Thu 5:50-8:25
Prometheus (14A) Fri 6:50-9:25 Sat-Sun 4:10-6:50-9:25 Mon-Thu 5:35-8:15
Savages (18A) Fri 6:30-9:10 Sat-Sun 3:55-6:30-9:10 Mon-Thu 5:25-8:05
WWE SummerSlam - 2012 (STC) Sun 5

Pacific Cinémathèque 1131 Howe Street

Abigail Child: What We Desire (STC) Mon 7:30
All Quiet on the Western Front (STC) Wed 7
Frankenstein (G) Fri 8 Sat 6:30 Sun 9:30
The Inglorious Bastards (STC) Thu 7
The Iron Giant (STC) Sun 1
The Mummy (STC) Fri 9:30 Sat 8 Sun 6:30
No Films Showing Today (STC) Tue
Park Theatre
3440 Cambie Street, 604-876-2747
Hope Springs (PG) Fri 4-7-9:15 Sat-Sun 1:30-4-7-9:15 Mon-Thu 4-7-9:15
Ridge Theatre
3131 Arbutus Street, 604-738-6311
The Bourne Legacy (PG) Fri 4-7-9:45 Sat-Sun 1-4-7-9:45 Mon-Thu 4-7-9:45

Rio on Broadway 1660 E. Broadway

Dead on Film Zombie Competition (STC) Fri
Mean Girls (PG) Wed 10
No Films Showing Today (STC) Sat-Tue
Vancouver Queer Film Festival (STC) Thu 7-9:30

Scotiabank Theatre Vancouver 900 Burrard St.

The Bourne Legacy (PG) Fri-Sun 12:30-12:45-1:15-3:35-3:50-4:20-6:40-7-7:30-9:40-10-10:35 Mon 12:45-1-3:45-4:15-6:40-7:30-9:40-10-10:30 Tue 12:30-12:45-1:15-3:35-3:50-4:20-6:40-7-7:30-9:40-10-10:35 Wed 12:30-12:45-1:15-3:35-3:50-4:20-7-7:30-9:40-10-10:30 Thu 12:30-12:45-1:15-3:35-3:50-4:20-6:40-7-7:30-9:40-10-10:30
The Campaign (14A) Fri-Sun 1:35-3:45-6:05-8:20-10:40 Mon 1-3:10-5:20-7:15-10 Tue 1:35-3:45-6:05-8:20-10:40 Wed-Thu 1:35-3:45-6:05-8:15-10:25
The Dark Knight Rises (PG) Fri-Thu 1:10-3-4:45-6:45-8:30-10:20
The Expendables 2 (14A) Fri-Sun 12-2:30-5-7:40-10:15 Mon 1:30-4:30-7:20-9:50 Tue 2:30-5-7:40-10:15 Wed-Thu 1:30-4:30-7:20-9:50 Fri-Sun 12:40-3:10-5:40-8:10-10:45 Mon 2-5-7:50-10:20 Tue 12:40-3:10-5:40-8:10-10:45 Wed-Thu 2-5-7:50-10:20
The Running Man (14A) Mon 7:30
Total Recall (PG) Fri-Sun 2-5-8-10:45 Mon 2-5-7:45-10:25 Tue 2-5-8-10:45 Wed-Thu 2-5-7:45-10:25

Vancity Theatre Vancouver International Film Centre 1181 Seymour Street,

Gerhard Richter Painting (G) Fri 6:45 Sat 8:40
The Mill and the Cross (STC) Fri 8:45 Sat 6:45
Queer Film Festival (STC) Sun-Thu

Vancouver Aquarium 4D Experience Theatre 845 Avison Way

Pole To Pole 4-D Experience (STC) Fri-Thu 10:15-10:45-11:15-11:45-12:15-12:45-1:15-1:45-2:15-2:45-3:15-3:45-4:15-4:45-5:15-5:45-6:15
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200 West Esplanade, 604-983-2762
The Campaign (14A) Fri 3:30-7:20-9:30 Sat-Sun 1:15-3:30-7:20-9:30 Mon-Thu 3:30-7:20-9:30
The Dark Knight Rises (PG) Fri 4:40-8:30 Sat-Sun 1-4:40-8:30 Mon-Thu 4:40-8:30
The Expendables 2 (14A) Fri 4-7-9:40 Sat-Sun 1:30-4-7-9:40 Mon-Thu 4-7-9:40
Hope Springs (PG) Fri 3:45-7:10-9:35 Sat-Sun 1:20-3:45-7:10-9:35 Mon-Thu 3:45-7:10-9:35
The Odd Life of Timothy Green (G) Fri 3:55-6:50-9:20 Sat-Sun 1:10-3:55-6:50-9:20 Mon-Thu 3:55-6:50-9:20
Sparkle (PG) Fri 3:50-6:40-9:25 Sat-Sun 1:05-3:50-6:40-9:25 Mon-Thu 3:50-6:40-9:25

Park & Tilford 333 Brooksbank Ave.

The Amazing Spider-Man 3D (PG) Fri-Sat 4:10-10:10 Sun-Thu 4-10
The Bourne Legacy (PG) Fri-Sat 12:50-1:15-3:55-4:25-6:55-7:30-10:05-10:30 Sun-Thu 1-1:30-3:55-4:25-6:50-7:20-9:45-10:15
Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Dog Days (G) Fri-Sat 12:30-2:50-5:10-7:40-10 Sun-Thu 2:20-4:45-7-9:20
Ice Age: Continental Drift 3D (STC) Fri-Sat 12:45-7 Sun-Thu 1:20-7:35
ParaNorman (PG) Fri-Sat 12:15 Sun-Wed 2:35 Star & Strollers Screening Thu 1
ParaNorman 3D (STC) Fri-Sat 2:35-4:55-7:15-9:35 Sun-Thu 4:55-7:15-9:35
Total Recall (PG) Fri-Sat 1:50-4:40-7:20-10:20 Sun-Thu 1:50-4:40-7:30-10:10

Richmond

SilverCity Riverport 14211 Entertainment Way

The Amazing Spider-Man (PG) Fri-Thu 1:15
The Amazing Spider-Man 3D (PG) Fri-Thu 4:25-7:35-10:45
The Bourne Legacy (PG) Fri-Thu 1-1:30-4:05-4:35-7:10-7:40-10:15-10:45
Brave (G) Fri-Thu 12:35-3-5:30-7:55-10:20
The Campaign (14A) Fri-Thu 1:35-3:50-6:05-8:20-10:35
The Dark Knight Rises (PG) Fri-Thu 1:10-4:45-8:30 Fri-Thu 10:15
The Dark Knight Rises: The IMAX Experience (PG) Fri-Thu 12:30-3:50-7:10-10:30
Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Dog Days (G) Fri-Thu 12:30-2:50-5:15-7:40-10
Ek Tha Tiger (STC) Fri-Sat 1:25-4:25-7:30-10:40 Sun 1:25-4:25-7:30-10:50 Mon-Thu 1:25-4:25-7:30-10:40
The Expendables 2 (14A) Fri-Thu 12:10-2:40-5:10-7:40-10:15 Fri-Thu 12:40-3:10-5:40-8:10-10:45
Hope Springs (PG) Fri-Thu 2-4:45-7:30-10:05
Ice Age: Continental Drift (STC) Fri-Thu 12:25
Ice Age: Continental Drift 3D (STC) Fri-Thu 2:50-5:15-7:40-10:05
Mouse Hunt (STC) Sat 11
The Odd Life of Timothy Green (G) Fri-Wed 2:05-4:40-7:15-9:50 Thu 4:40-7:15-9:50 Star & Strollers Screening, Thu 1
ParaNorman (PG) Fri-Thu 12:50
ParaNorman 3D (STC) Fri-Thu 3:05-5:25-7:45-10:05
Sparkle (PG) Fri-Thu 2-4:50-7:40-10:30
Step Up Revolution (PG) Fri-Sat 12:40-3:10-5:30-7:50 Sun 12:40-8:30 Mon-Thu 12:40-3:10-5:30-7:50
Ted (14A) Fri-Thu 12:30-3:05-5:35-8:10-10:45
Total Recall (PG) Fri-Thu 2:20-5:10-8-10:50
WWE SummerSlam - 2012 (STC) Sun 5

Burnaby Dolphin Cinemas 4555 E. Hastings St.

The Bourne Legacy (PG) Fri-Thu 12:45-3:25-6:30-9:25
The Dark Knight Rises (PG) Fri-Thu 9
Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Dog Days (G) Fri-Thu 12:30-2:30
Magic Mike (14A) Fri-Thu 4:30-6:45
SilverCity Metropolis
4700 Kingsway Ave., 604-435-7474
The Bourne Legacy (PG) Fri-Sun 1-1:25-4-4:25-7-7:25-10:05-10:30 Mon-Thu 1:05-1:25-4-4:25-7:05-7:25-10:05-10:30
The Campaign (14A) Fri 1:35-3:50-6:05-8:20-10:35 Sat 11:25-1:35-3:50-6:05-8:20-10:35 Sun 1:35-3:50-6:05-8:20-10:35 Mon-Thu 1:20-3:40-5:55-8:10-10:25
The Dark Knight Rises (PG) Fri 2:45-6:45-10:20 Sat 11:10-2:45-6:45-10:20 Sun 2:45-6:45-10:20 Mon-Thu 2:25-6:05-9:45
The Expendables 2 (14A) Fri 2:10-4:45-7:20-9:55 Sat 11:35-2:10-4:45-7:20-9:55 Sun 2:10-4:45-7:20-9:55 Mon-Tue 1:30-4:20-7-9:40 Wed-Thu 1:30-4:20-9:40 Fri-Sun 12:45-3:15-5:45-8:15-10:45 Mon-Thu 2:10-5:05-7:40-10:15
Hope Springs (PG) Fri 2:20-5-7:30-10 Sat 11:45-2:20-5-7:30-10 Sun 2:20-5-7:30-10 Mon-Thu 2:20-5-7:35-10
Mouse Hunt (STC) Sat 11
The Odd Life of Timothy Green (G) Fri-Sun 1:50-4:30-7:10-9:45 Mon-Thu 1:50-4:30-7:10-9:50
ParaNorman (PG) Fri-Sun 12:55 Mon-Thu 1
ParaNorman 3D (STC) Fri-Thu 3:10-5:25-7:45-10:10
Total Recall (PG) Fri 2-4:55-7:50-10:40 Sat 11:20-2-4:55-7:50-10:40 Sun 2-10:40 Mon-Thu 1:40-4:35-7:30-10:20
WWE SummerSlam - 2012 (STC) Sun 5

Station Square 220-6200 McKay Ave.

The Amazing Spider-Man (PG) Fri 4:05-7-9:55 Sat-Sun 1:10-4:05-7-9:55 Mon-Thu 4:05-7-9:55
The Bourne Legacy (PG) Fri 4-6:55-9:55 Sat-Sun 1:05-4-6:55-9:55 Mon-Thu 4-6:55-9:55
The Dark Knight Rises (PG) Fri 4:30-8 Sat-Sun 1-4:30-8 Mon-Thu 4:30-8
Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Dog Days (G) Fri 4-6:45-9:25 Sat-Sun 1:15-4-6:45-9:25 Mon-Thu 4-6:45-9:25
The Healing (STC) Fri 4:25-7:10-9:40 Sat-Sun 1:30-4:25-7:10-9:40 Mon-Thu 4:25-7:10-9:40
Ice Age: Continental Drift (STC) Fri 4:15-7:05-9:35 Sat-Sun 1:25-4:15-7:05-9:35 Mon-Thu 4:15-7:05-9:35
Ted (14A) Fri 4:20-6:50-9:30 Sat-Sun 1:20-4:20-6:50-9:30 Mon-Thu 4:20-6:50-9:30

New West/ Coquitlam

SilverCity Coquitlam 170 Schoolhouse Street

The Amazing Spider-Man (PG) Fri-Thu 12:55
The Amazing Spider-Man 3D (PG) Fri-Sat 4-7:05-10:10 Sun 4-10:10 Mon-Thu 4-7:05-10:10
The Bourne Legacy (PG) Fri-Thu 12:35-1:30-3:40-4:35-6:50-7:40-9:55-10:45 Fri-Sun 1-4-7:10-10:15 Mon 4-7:10-10:15 Tue 1-4-7:10-10:15 Wed-Thu 4-7:10-10:15
Brave (G) Fri-Thu 12:40
The Campaign (14A) Fri 1:10-3:45-6:05-8:20-10:35 Sat 11-1:10-3:45-6:05-8:20-10:35 Sun-Thu 1:10-3:45-6:05-8:20-10:35 Fri-Sun 1:40-4:30-7:30-9:50 Mon 4:30-7:30-9:50 Tue 1:40-4:30-7:30-9:50 Wed-Thu 4:30-7:30-9:50
The Dark Knight Rises (PG) Fri-Thu 1-3:05-4:45-6:40-8:30-10:15 Fri-Sun 2-5:35-9:15 Mon 5:35-9:15 Tue 2-5:35-9:15 Wed-Thu 5:35-9:15
Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Dog Days (G) Fri-Thu 12:30-2:50-5:10-7:35-10
The Expendables 2 (14A) Fri-Thu 1:30-4:30-7:10-9:45 Fri-Sun 2:20-5-7:50-10:30 Mon 5-7:50-10:30 Tue 2:20-5-7:50-10:30 Wed-Thu 5-7:50-10:30 Fri-Thu 12:40-3:10-5:40-8:10-10:45
Hope Springs (PG) Fri 2:15-4:50-7:25-10 Sat 11:45-2:15-4:50-7:25-10 Sun-Thu 2:15-4:50-7:25-10 Fri-Sun 1:20-4:15-6:50-9:30 Mon 4:15-6:50-9:30 Tue 1:20-4:15-6:50-9:30 Wed-Thu 4:15-6:50-9:30
Ice Age: Continental Drift (STC) Fri-Sat 12:30 Sun 1:15 Mon-Thu 12:30
Ice Age: Continental Drift 3D (STC) Fri-Sat 2:45-5-7:20-9:40 Sun 7:20-9:40 Mon-Thu 2:45-5-7:20-9:40
Mouse Hunt (STC) Sat 11
The Odd Life of Timothy Green (G) Fri 2:05-4:40-7:15-9:50 Sat 11:30-2:05-4:40-7:15-9:50 Sun-Tue 2:05-4:40-7:15-9:50 Wed 4:40-7:15-9:50 Thu 2:05-4:40-7:15-9:50 Star & Strollers Screening, Wed 1
ParaNorman (PG) Fri-Thu 12:45
ParaNorman 3D (STC) Fri-Thu 3:05-5:25-7:45-10:05
Sparkle (PG) Fri 2-4:45-7:30-10:15 Sat 11:10-2-4:45-7:30-10:15 Sun-Thu 2-4:45-7:30-10:15
Total Recall (PG) Fri 2:20-5:10-8-10:50 Sat 11:20-2:20-5:10-8-10:50 Sun 2:20-5:10-8-10:50 Mon 2:20-5:10-8-10:45 Tue 2:20-5:10-8-10:50 Wed-Thu 2:20-5:10-8-10:45
WWE SummerSlam - 2012 (STC) Sun 5

Surrey/White Rock/Langley

Clova 5732-176th St., Surrey

Ice Age: Continental Drift (STC) Fri-Thu 3:25
Katy Perry: Part of Me (G) Fri-Thu 1:30
Savages (18A) Fri-Thu 9
Ted (14A) Fri-Thu 7

Hollywood 3 Cinema 7125-138th Street, Surrey

The Amazing Spider-Man (PG) Fri-Thu 1:30
The Amazing Spider-Man 3D (PG) Fri-Thu 4:25-7:05-9:45
Madagascar 3: Europe's Most Wanted (G) Fri-Thu 4:30-6:30
Madagascar 3: Europe's Most Wanted 3D (G) Fri-Thu 12:30-2:25
Marvel's the Avengers (PG) Fri-Thu 1:30-8:30
Step Up Revolution (PG) Fri-Thu 4:30
Ted (14A) Fri-Thu 6:55-9:15

Strawberry Hill Grande 12161-72nd Ave, Surrey

The Bourne Legacy (PG) Fri-Thu 1:30-4:35-7:40-10:45
The Campaign (14A) Fri-Thu 1:35-3:50-6:05-8:20-10:35
Carry on Jatta (G) Fri-Thu 1-4:15-7:20-10:30
The Dark Knight Rises (PG) Fri-Sat 2:10-3:10-5:45-6:45-9:20-10:20 Sun 3:10-6:45-9:20-10:20 Mon-Thu 2:10-3:10-5:45-6:45-9:20-10:20
Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Dog Days (G) Fri-Thu 12:30
Ek Tha Tiger (STC) Fri-Thu 12:45-4-7:05-10:05
The Expendables 2 (14A) Fri-Thu 12:40-3:10-5:40-7:10-8:10-9:45-10:45
Hope Springs (PG) Fri-Thu 2-4:45-7:30-10
Ice Age: Continental Drift (STC) Fri-Thu 12:25-2:50
Mouse Hunt (STC) Sat 11
The Odd Life of Timothy Green (G) Fri-Tue 2:05-4:40-7:15-9:50 Wed 4:40-7:15-9:50 Thu 2:05-4:40-7:15-9:50 Star & Strollers Screening, Wed 1
ParaNorman (PG) Fri-Thu 12:45
ParaNorman 3D (STC) Fri-Thu 3:05-5:25-7:45-10:05
Sirphire (G) Fri-Thu 12:30-3:30-6:30-9:30
WWE SummerSlam - 2012 (STC) Sun 5

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Studio 12 Guildford
15051-101st Ave, Surrey

The Amazing Spider-Man (PG) , Fri-Thu 9:10
The Bourne Legacy (PG) , , Fri-Sun 1:20-3:50-6:45-9:50 , Mon 6:45-9:50 , Tue 1:20-3:50-6:45-9:50 , Wed-Thu 6:45-9:50
The Campaign (14A) , , Fri-Sun 1:30-4:30-7:15-10 , Mon 7:15-10 , Tue 1:30-4:30-7:15-10 , Wed-Thu 7:15-10 , Wed 1
Carry on Jatta (G) , Fri-Sun 1-4:10-7:45 , Mon 7:45 , Tue 1-4:10-7:45 , Wed-Thu 7:45
The Dark Knight Rises (PG) , Fri-Sun 1:10-3:35-8 , Mon 8 , Tue 1:10-3:35-8 , Wed-Thu 8
Ek Tha Tiger (STC) , Fri-Sun 3:25-6:30-9:40 , Mon 6:30-9:40 , Tue 3:25-6:30-9:40 , Wed-Thu 6:30-9:40
The Expendables 2 (14A) , Fri-Sun 1:45-4:15-7-9:30 , Mon 7-9:30 , Tue 1:45-4:15-7-9:30 , Wed-Thu 7-9:30
Hope Springs (PG) , Fri-Sun 1:25-4-6:40-9:25 , Mon 6:40-9:25 , Tue 1:25-4-6:40-9:25 , Wed-Thu 6:40-9:25
Ice Age: Continental Drift (STC) Fri-Sun 1-3:40-6:25 Mon 6:45 Tue 1-3:40-6:25 Wed-Thu 6:25
The Odd Life of Timothy Green (G) , Fri-Sun 1:15-4:45-7:20-9:45 , Mon 7:20-9:45 , Tue 1:15-4:45-7:20-9:45 , Wed-Thu 7:20-9:45
ParaNorman (PG) , Fri-Sun 1:35 , Tue 1:35
ParaNorman 3D (STC) , Fri-Sun 3:55-6:20-9:15 , Mon 6:20-9:15 , Tue 3:55-6:20-9:15 , Wed-Thu 6:20-9:15
Sparkle (PG) , Fri-Sun 1:40-4:25-7:10-9:55 , Mon 7:10-9:55 , Tue 1:40-4:25-7:10-9:55 , Wed-Thu 7:10-9:55
Total Recall (PG) , Fri-Sat 1:15-4-6:50-9:45 , Sun 1:15-9:45 , Mon 6:50-9:45 , Tue 1:15-4-6:50-9:45 , Wed-Thu 6:50-9:45
WWE SummerSlam - 2012 (STC) , Presentation, , Sun 5

Rialto
1732-152nd Street, White Rock

Beasts of the Southern Wild (PG) Fri 7-9:15 Sat-Sun 2-7-9:15 Mon-Thu 7-9:15
Hope Springs (PG) Fri 7:10-9:10 Sat-Sun 2:10-7:10-9:10 Mon-Thu 7:10-9:10

Criterion 4 White Rock
2381 King George Highway

The Bourne Legacy (PG) Fri 7-9:30 Sat-Sun 2-7-9:30 Mon-Thu 7-9:30
The Campaign (14A) Fri 7:20-9:05 Sat-Sun 2:20-7:20-9:05 Mon-Thu 7:20-9:05
Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Dog Days (G) Fri 7:10 Sat-Sun 2:10-7:10 Mon-Thu 7:10
The Expendables 2 (14A) Fri 7:30-9:35 Sat-Sun 2:30-7:30-9:35 Mon-Thu 7:30-9:35
Total Recall (PG) Fri-Thu 9

Colossus Langley
20090-91A Ave, Langley

The Amazing Spider-Man (PG) Fri-Thu 12:45
The Amazing Spider-Man 3D (PG) Fri-Thu 4-7:20-10:25
The Bourne Legacy (PG) Fri-Thu 12:35-1-3:35-4:05-6:45-7:10-10-10:25
Brave (G) Fri-Thu 1:55
Brave 3D (G) Fri-Thu 5-7:45-10:20
The Campaign (14A) Fri 12:55-2:15-3:20-4:55-5:45-7:35-8:30-10:05-10:45 Sat 12:55-1:25-3:20-4:55-5:45-7:35-8:30-10:05-10:45 Sun 12:55-2:15-3:20-4:55-5:45-7:35-8:30-10:05-10:45 Mon-Thu 12:55-2:15-3:20-4:55-5:45-7:35-8-10:05-10:25
The Dark Knight Rises (PG) Fri-Thu 2-6-9:55
The Dark Knight Rises: The IMAX Experience (PG) Fri-Thu 12:30-3:50-7:10-10:30
Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Dog Days (G) Fri-Sun 12-2:35-5:10-7:30-9:55 Mon-Thu 2:35-5:10-7:30-9:55
The Expendables 2 (14A) Fri-Sun 12-2:35-5:10-7:50-10:15 Mon-Thu 1:30-4:15-7:30-10 Fri-Sun 12:30-3:10-5:40-8:10-10:45 Mon-Thu 2-4:45-8-10:30
Hope Springs (PG) Fri 2-4:45-7:30-10 Sat 11:30-2-4:45-7:30-10 Sun-Thu 2-4:45-7:30-10
Ice Age: Continental Drift (STC) Fri-Thu 1:15
Ice Age: Continental Drift 3D (STC) Fri-Thu 4:40-7:15
Magic Mike (14A) Fri-Sat 1-7:25 Sun 1 Mon-Thu 1-7:25
Mouse Hunt (STC) Sat 11
The Odd Life of Timothy Green (G) Fri 2:05-4:40-7:15-9:50 Sat 11:30-2:05-4:40-7:15-9:50 Sun-Tue 2:05-4:40-7:15-9:50 Wed 12:30-7:15-9:50 Thu 2:05-4:40-7:15-9:50 Star & Strollers Screening, Wed 3
ParaNorman (PG) Fri-Thu 12:45
ParaNorman 3D (STC) Fri-Thu 3:05-5:25-7:45-10:05
The Running Man (14A) Mon 7:30
Savages (18A) Fri-Sat 4-10:10 Sun 10:10 Mon-Thu 4-10:10
Sparkle (PG) Fri 1:50-4:50-7:40-10:30 Sat 11-1:50-4:50-7:40-10:30 Sun 1:50-4:50-7:40-10:30 Mon 1:45-4:35-7:35-10:30 Tue-Thu 1:50-4:50-7:35-10:30
Ted (14A) Fri-Sun 1:30-4:30-7:25-10:15 Mon 1:30-4:30-10:20 Tue-Thu 1:30-4:30-7:25-10:20
Total Recall (PG) Fri-Thu 1:40-4:30-7:20-10:10
The Watch (18A) Fri-Thu 10:20
WWE SummerSlam - 2012 (STC) Sun 5

Twilight Drive-In
260th Street & Fraser Highway, Langley

The Bourne Legacy (PG) Fri-Thu 8:45
Savages (18A) Fri-Sat 1:15
Ted (14A) Fri-Thu 11:15

Live it up before Labour Day

With just three weeks to go until Labour Day, we're being teased with more singles from upcoming fourth-quarter releases. This includes some big Canadian albums.

SOUND CHECK
Alan Cross
scene@metronews.ca

Surprise Surprise/Billy Talent

Another taste of their fourth album, Dead Silence (Sept 11). No more Roman numerals, then. YouTube it.

I Will Wait/ Mumford & Sons

One of the most anticipated singles of the fall is a song based on a banjo riff?

Babel comes Sept 25. Check it out on YouTube.

Chalk Outline/ Three Days Grace

First single Transit of Venus, which we'll see Oct. 2.

The song is already all over the radio and available on iTunes. There's also a cool promo for the album on YouTube.

CLASS ACTION AGAINST VOLKSWAGEN

A PROPOSED AGREEMENT MAY SETTLE THE CLASS ACTION

IF YOU PURCHASED OR LEASED A 2006 VOLKSWAGEN JETTA YOU MAY BE AFFECTED BY THE PROPOSED AGREEMENT

MODEL COVERED
2006 Volkswagen Jetta vehicles with serial numbers between 1K_5M000001 and 1K_6M759703.

THE PROBLEM
The proposed agreement pertains to the intermittent or permanent problems related to the use of electrical accessories and/or the charging system of the vehicles covered. Those problems are resulting from the premature wear of left front driver door wiring harness (the "Problem Covered").

PROPOSED AGREEMENT
For those who repaired, replaced or purchased the wiring harness for the left front driver door, the agreement provides for a reimbursement of $320.00 less any credit granted or amount previously reimbursed by Volkswagen or one of its authorized dealers, relating to the Problem Covered.

Class counsel's fees and an amount allocated to the Class Action Assistance Fund will be deducted from the monies payable to class members and from the benefits arising from the proposed agreement.

For all the persons affected by the class action, the agreement provides that the warranty on this part will be extended to 8.5 years (102 months) or 165,000 km from the in-service date, whichever comes first, subject to a deductible of $ 60 plus taxes payable to the dealer.

APPROVAL OF THE AGREEMENT BY THE COURT
The proposed agreement will be submitted to the Superior Court of Quebec for approval on **October 9th, 2012 at 9:00 am, at the Montreal Courthouse** (File No. 500-06-000556-114).

If you wish to **comment or to object to** the proposed agreement, you must do so in writing to Mr. Normand Painchaud via email at n.painchaud@sfpavocats.ca, at least **7 days** before the hearing. All comments or objections will be brought to the attention of the Court.

DO YOU WISH TO BENEFIT FROM THE AGREEMENT?
If the agreement is approved by the court, another notice will be published and claim forms will be available for members of the group who repaired, replaced or purchased the wiring harness for the left front driver door.

If you do not wish to be part of the class action, you will have the opportunity to opt-out if the agreement is approved by the Court.

THE ATTORNEYS FOR THE CLASS ACTION
SYLVESTRE FAFARD PAINCHAUD
740, Atwater
Montréal (Québec) H4C 2G9
Tel: (514) 937-2881
Fax: (514) 937-6529
Email: d.beaulieu@sfpavocats.ca
Website: www.sfpavocats.ca/volkswagen

Visit **www.sfpavocats.ca/volkswagen** or **www.vwclaim.ca** for information about this settlement.

THIS NOTICE HAS BEEN APPROVED BY THE SUPERIOR COURT OF QUEBEC. DO NOT CONTACT THE COURT.

What will you do with last years school clothes and accessories?
Why not donate them to the Sally Ann
WE ARE IN URGENT NEED OF YOUR GENTLY USED CLOTHING AND HOUSEHOLD ITEMS.
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THE SALVATION ARMY
THRIFT STORE

Now sober, singer Daniel Powter getting over bad days

Daniel Powter has turned his pain into a new record. GETTY IMAGES

New album. B.C. troubadour trying to put things in a more positive frame, leave the past in the past and Turn on the Lights

He had a bad day. Many of them, actually.

But British-Columbia-bred troubadour Daniel Powter, whose 2006 Grammy-nominated hit single Bad Day became a global hard-knocks anthem, has turned his life around and is singing a more positive tune with the newly released album Turn on the Lights.

The pop-rock singer-songwriter says the title of the sunny new disc reflects a brightness that's permeated his life since he kicked a drug and alcohol addiction, went through a divorce, got engaged to his former personal trainer, and had a second child.

Now two years sober, he says he feels like a different person than he was when Bad Day was the Billboard Top Hot 100 song of 2006, as well as the theme song for a Coca-Cola ad and American Idol's fifth season.

"A lot of people will say that they got sober for other people, but I got sober for myself," a chiseled and tanned Powter, who counts surfing and yoga among his hobbies, said in an interview.

"I was so sick of myself, the redundancy of my life, and my patterns were so predictable. If I put a graph of my behaviour I could see: Things are tough, resentment, resentment, OK, I'm getting angry, I'm angry, I'm angry — use. You could just see it all the time, and when ... I wanted to really change my life, I had to learn how to have a more positive way of dealing with resentment and anger and things like that. And once I learned how to do that, then everything started turning around for me."

Powter admitted he was "in a really dark place" before he got sober.

"I was on the fast track to kind of going down the wrong road and just ending up dead, which I would have, eventually, if I'd continued the way I was."

A lot of the anger that was fuelling his addiction stemmed from trauma in his childhood in Vernon, B.C., but he's since learned how to deal with it, he said.

He's also had to learn how to write songs "from a different place," which wasn't easy.

"I always wrote from a lot of pain. Even the Bad Day record, it was easy for me to galvanize a lot of energy when you have a lot of pain in your life." THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quote

"I wanted to really change my life, I had to learn how to have a more positive way of dealing with resentment and anger and things like that."
B.C.-bred troubadour Daniel Powter

Killswitch. Looking to re-Engage with its former lead vocalist

Killswitch Engage has its former vocalist back in the mix. GETTY IMAGES

Jesse Leach's voice sounds profoundly calm. It's hard to imagine that Leach, the lead vocalist for metalcore heavyweight Killswitch Engage, is only hours away from unleashing his guttural vocals to the tune of thousands of screaming headbangers in Pittsburgh.

"That is my therapy session," Leach says of performing live. "That's my way of releasing the demons."

For Leach, the original vocalist for Killswitch Engage, the path has not been without its trials. In 2002, he left the band, following the release of Alive or Just Breathing, the album that put Killswitch Engage on the map.

"I was dealing with depression, just being newly married in my life and not knowing how to handle myself on the road," Leach admits. "I had to get away."

In February, Killswitch Engage announced on Facebook that Leach would return.

Although he has been involved in other musical projects since 2002, the time away from Killswitch relieved Leach of the pressures of fame and allowed him to mature. He cites strained vocal chords as part of his downward spiral. Now he proudly refers to his voice as his "instrument" and says because of his care, he has been able to sing through sickness twice on this most recent tour.

"I'm not second-guessing myself anymore," Leach says. "And part of that is just being humble and realizing that there's always something to learn."

KILLIAN YOUNG/ METRO WORLD NEWS

Returning

Rejoining the fold

- **Leach.** Since rejoining Killswitch Engage, Leach has sung for the band's homecoming in Massachusetts and has played shows from France to Austria to here in Canada.

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SUMMER TheatreSports® • Thu 7:30PM
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SUMMER TheatreSports® • Fri/Sat 8 &10PM
Scared Scriptless • Fri/Sat 11:45PM
Rookie Night • Sun 7:30PM
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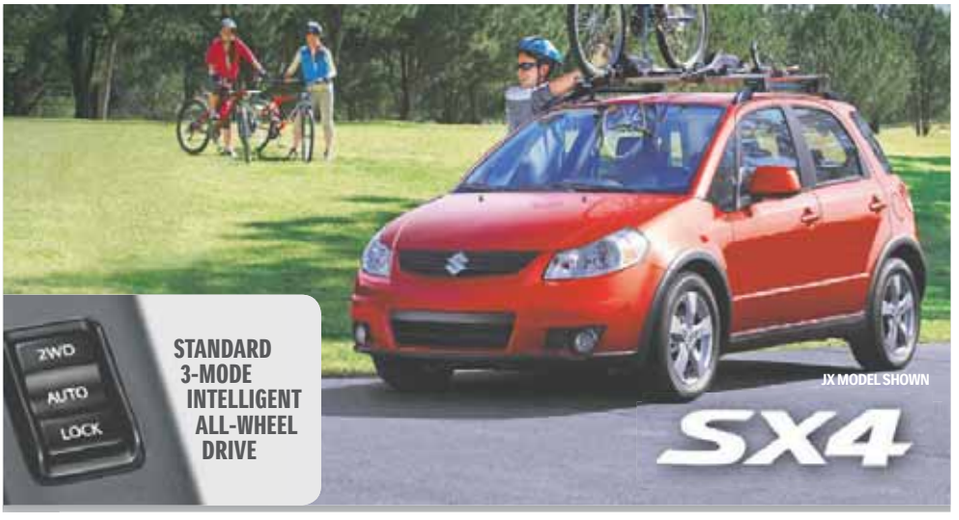

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TV Pix

Sigourney Weaver stars in Political Animals. HANDOUT

Celebration for education

The star-studded musical special Teachers Rock pays tribute to teachers and education with performances by Carrie Underwood, Dierks Bentley, Fun, Josh Groban and Garth Brooks on Friday. Meanwhile, music stars Dave Grohl, Usher, Adam Levine and actors Meryl Streep, Viola Davis, Maggie Gyllenhaal, Jennifer Garner and Morgan Freeman are among the celebs who share their personal stories. (CBS).

Strike Back is back again

Season 2 of the globe-trotting series Strike Back debuts Friday with two back-to-back episodes. Sullivan Stapleton and Philip Winchester play two members of a top-secret counter-terrorism agency called Section 20 — Stapleton's Damien Scott is a disgraced Delta Forces operative while Winchester's Michael Stonebridge is an elite British sergeant. (HBO Canada).

Arrested Development marathon

Jason Bateman's tweets from the set of Arrested Development are only stoking the fervour of rabid fans clamouring for the long-awaited Season 4. Until it arrives, bide your time with a marathon of Bluth family antics including misguided magic tricks, frozen bananas, boyfights and inappropriate shoulder massages on Saturday. (Bite TV).

Finale for Political Animals

After watching Sigourney Weaver take charge as a no-nonsense U.S. secretary of state on Political Animals, who wouldn't want to see the towering tour-de-force take office? The entire season has traced Elaine Barrish's gradual march towards another possible run at the Oval Office and those efforts apparently come to a head with Sunday's finale episode, titled Resignation Day. (Bravo).

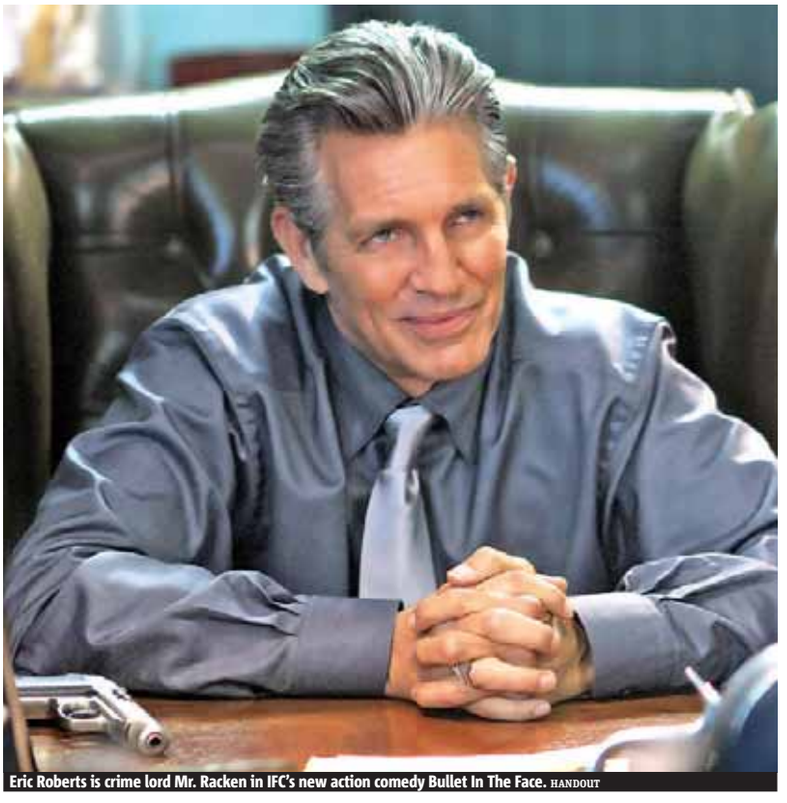
More problems for the boss on Breaking Bad

It seems that being the boss has its drawbacks over on Breaking Bad, especially if your business is less than legitimate. So far it's been one headache after another for Walt, Jesse and Mike as they try to get back into the meth game and Sunday the worries over the future of their business continue. Meanwhile, occupational hazards weigh heavily on Jesse. (AMC)

THE CANADIAN PRESS

'It's not good versus evil — It's evil versus evil'

'Touchy-feely' entertainment. IFC's Bullet in the Face makes good on its violent title



Eric Roberts is crime lord Mr. Racken in IFC's new action comedy Bullet In The Face. HANDOUT

Alan Spencer, creator of the 1980s ABC police spoof Sledge Hammer!, has a new series with a title that's a dead giveaway: Bullet in the Face isn't playing by quaint 20th-century network standards.

Making a quick bow on IFC, with its six episodes split between Thursday and Friday (10 p.m. ET), Bullet in the Face mixes darkly madcap humour, a silly but sadistic antihero and lots of violence in a stew that even Spencer is hard-pressed to define.

"Maybe the world of graphic novels might be the only influence I could cite," he said. Then again, he muses, he was interested in exploring the idea of a Euro-style thriller. And he sees a touch of The Prisoner in the fact it's a short-run series.

"I almost wrote it stream-of-consciousness ... with a degree of self-indulgence. I was amusing myself," said Spencer, who otherwise has been keeping busy as a script doctor.

The series stars Max Williams as Gunter Vogler, a sociopathic gun-for-hire who, in line with the title, is shot in the face as the story opens. Police arrange a transplant — why not? — to give Vogler the visage of a detective that he killed, then force him to work against the city's mobsters.

Eddie Izzard and Eric Roberts play the bad guys and Kate Kelton is the gutsy moll who's leading several lives, all of them dangerous.

From its frenzied start, Bullet in the Face gets — impressively — even more frenzied, with Williams, Izzard and Roberts unafraid to chow down on the surreal tale that Spencer has given them.

IFC is putting the series in the company of other "touchy-feely" entertainment, Spencer joked, with Fight Club and From Dusk Till Dawn nestled close by on the channel's schedule.

While Sledge Hammer! laboured under broadcast restrictions, Bullet in the Face has been given free rein on contemporary cable, he said.

Is Spencer uneasy about glorifying violence by dressing it in satiric trappings and making it cool?

"No, because I've put it in a heightened fantasy world. It's not good versus evil — It's evil versus evil, and you have to decide who to latch on to," Spencer replied.

The series also is a reflection of "what other entertainment looks like. ... with criminals being romanticized as our heroes," he said. That idea of immoral characters providing an audience catharsis is fascinating to Spencer, and it enticed him to make a villain his series lead.

Quote

"I don't want them to be bored. That's my main agenda ... for me it's criminal to bore someone."

Alan Spencer, series creator, referring to Bullet in the Face's audience

"That's what I wanted to explore. People see Diehard and are rooting for Alan Rickman," not the putative hero portrayed by Bruce Willis, he said.

Sledge Hammer! verged on that approach, with a lead character (played by David Rasche) who adored his .44 Magnum above all. But the comedy's 14 million viewers, although impressive in these days of niche programming and splintered ratings, earned it a pink slip after two seasons.

Whether Bullet in the Face has a future or not, Spencer said he's content that he didn't hold anything back for the possibility of another season.

"That's how I approach everything: I go for broke every time," he said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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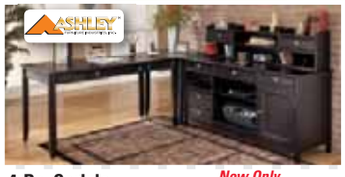

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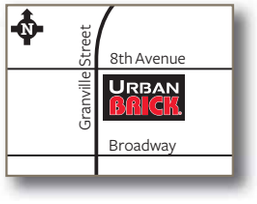

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Who is Swift taking aim at?

Fans are speculating which ex-boyfriend Taylor Swift wrote her new single, We are Never Ever Getting Back Together, about, but at least one is taking himself out of the running.

"I can tell you it's not about me," Joe Jonas, who dated Swift in 2008, says during an interview with Washington, D.C. area radio station 94.7 Fresh FM.

"I can say it's not about me because I don't think we ever tried another time."

Garth leans on a familiar shoulder

Five months after her husband of 11 years — Twilight actor Peter Facinelli — left her, Jennie Garth tells In Touch that she has found a surprising rock to lean on: her former Beverly Hills, 90210 co-star Luke Perry, who, she says, has guided her through the split.

"Luke has been one of my friends who I can call and talk about stuff and has been through something himself," Jennie tells In Touch, on newsstands now.

The 46-year-old actor and proud father of Jack, 15, and Sophie, 12, dealt with his own divorce in 2003.

The pair, who famously played lovebirds Kelly Taylor and Dylan McKay on the hit '90s series, are teaming up professionally in a new Old Navy commercial and a new television show they're co-producing.

"Luke's one of my best friends," Jennie, 40, tells In Touch. "It's really great to do something together."

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The Word

Humphries' lawyers get crafty

MONICA WEYMOUTH
scene@metronews.ca

Kris Humphries is engineering a you-hurt-my-feelings lawsuit against former wife Kim Kardashian, and in the process has to serve her current boyfriend, Kanye West, a subpoena.

So how do you corner a guy with an entourage on the payroll? In a stroke of enviable genius, Humphries' lawyer sent the papers over in a Nordstrom box.

If a Cinnabon box lands at the Metro office, we're going to have some very tough decisions to make.

Humphries' lawyer engineered a sneak attack by trying to serve a subpoena on West by putting it in the Nordstrom box and sending it to Kardashian's house.

Kim's lawyer, Laura Wasser, told the judge in the divorce case about the ploy during a hearing that is still going on.

Kim has already racked up $250,000 in attorney's fees, yet it's unclear exactly what Humphries wants out of this.

Wasser said she's heard the reports that Humphries and his lawyers want to put reality TV on trial, and there seems to be evidence to back that up.

Wasser noted that Humphries has served Kris Jenner with a subpoena and NBC Universal and Bunim/Murray, which produces the Kardashian reality shows.

Katie Holmes and Tom Cruise. ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Katie wants Tom to stay in daughter's life

Katie Holmes and Tom Cruise are set to reunite for the first time since Holmes filed for divorce when their daughter, Suri, starts school in New York City after Labor Day, according to Radar Online.

"Tom and Katie have been speaking on the telephone regarding Suri, and Katie has been very supportive of Tom wanting to be there when Suri goes to her new school for the first time," a source says.

"It's a big moment in Suri's life and Katie wants Tom to be a part of that. Of course, there will be security concerns and Tom doesn't want to disrupt other parents and students at the school with his presence, which means he could very well slip in and out via a back entrance.

"Katie doesn't want Suri to suffer because of their divorce and both parents are truly putting the needs of their little girl ahead of their own feelings."

Drizzy, Breezy facing lawsuit

Two months after a bottle-throwing brawl erupted between their entourages at a New York nightclub, Chris Brown and Drake find themselves slapped with a $16 million lawsuit for being responsible for the fracas, according to the New York Daily News.

A lawyer for Entertainment Enterprises Ltd., which has ties to the club, says the two R&B stars are ultimately responsible for their followers' behaviour. "It's their posse, and they're in charge, and to the extent that they could have controlled or dissipated whatever was going on, we don't believe they did," he tells the newspaper.

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Unlikely grape marriages

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When winemakers get it on in the winery, it isn't always a monogamous relationship. It's often a twosome, threesome or even moresome.

Before you start with the emails, I'm talking grape combinations here, people.

The blending of grapes to create distinctive wine styles dates back to the origins of winemaking. In fact, most European wines are unions of different varietals.

Europe is so blasé about blending that many countries don't even put the names of the grapes on their labels — preferring to play up the region where a wine comes from and who makes it.

When newbies like Australia, Chile and California entered the wine scene in the late 1980s, they saw bragging about their fruit combos as a selling point. They, and other New World countries, have been at the forefront of a wave of funky grape marriages.

Down Under's Hardy's 2009 Butcher's Gold 'Chronicle No. 3' Shiraz Sangiovese ($15 - $16.99) has a mouthful of a name to go along with its mouthful of flavour.

Sangiovese is the traditional grape of Italy's Chianti region and its bright cherry fruit works wonders with the black spiciness of the shiraz.

Grilled meat anyone?

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This recipe serves four. MATTHEW MEAD/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tuna livens up grill as summer's end nears

Grilled Tuna Steaks with Mango Herb Salsa. With fall about a month away, make the most of outdoor cooking with this exciting and easy dish

Summer makes us long for the grill. But by the end of the season, even our favourite burgers and dogs can feel a little bit tired.

So to keep your grilling interesting, here is a speedy grilled tuna dish that packs tons of big, bold flavours.

For this recipe, it's best to use tuna steaks, which are thick, meaty pieces cut from the fish in the opposite direction than a fillet.

You also could use salmon steaks, which often include the bone (which helps the flesh hold together on the grill). Swordfish also would work in this recipe.

Keep the prep simple with just a light coating of oil and a bit of salt and pepper. This also allows the flavour of the tuna to shine.

But to ensure you can also taste the fresh flavours of summer, top the tuna with a cross between a fruit salsa and an herby chimichurri.

It goes together in about 2 minutes with the help of a food processor.

1. Heat the grill to high.

2. In a food processor, combine the parsley, oregano, mint, 2 tablespoons of the olive oil, the red wine vinegar, garlic, red pepper flakes, and the lemon zest and juice. Process until well chopped, scraping down the bowl as needed. Add the mango and pulse once or twice to combine and lightly chop. Season with salt and pepper, then set aside.

3. Rub the tuna steaks on all sides with the remaining 1 tablespoon olive oil, then season them with salt and pepper. Grill the steaks for 2 to 3 minutes per side for medium-rare. Serve topped with the salsa. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Nutrition information

Here is the nutritional information per serving.

- **420 calories; 170 calories from fat (40 per cent of total calories); 19 g fat (3.5 g saturated; 0 g trans fat); 65 mg cholesterol; 21 g carbohydrate; 41 g protein; 3 g fibre; 200 mg sodium.**

Ingredients

- 1/2 cup packed fresh parsley leaves
- 1/4 cup packed fresh oregano leaves
- 1/4 cup fresh mint leaves
- 3 tbsp olive oil, divided
- 3 tbsp red wine vinegar
- 2 cloves garlic
- 1/2 tsp red pepper flakes
- Zest and juice of 1 lemon
- 2 mangos, peeled, pitted and diced
- Salt and ground black pepper
- Four 6-oz tuna steaks

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Take in the final weekend of the 12th Annual MusicFest celebration that has seen more than 40 events, concerts and performances take place around Vancouver. Enjoy a vibrant array of sounds courtesy of some of the most talented artists around the world. Classical, jazz and world music performances take place at various venues.

Fashion and art market

AUG. 18 - 19

As part of the City of Vancouver's VIVA program, the 800 block of Granville Street will be transformed once again, and this weekend play host to this popular artisan market. Stop by to peruse plenty of locally-produced products at the first ever outdoor Portobelo pop-up starting at 11 a.m. each day between Robson and Smithe on Granville Street.

Time to grow

AUG. 23 – 24

On our radar, the largest technology-based entrepreneurial meet-up of the year is happening next week in Vancouver. On Thursday, Aug. 23, be amongst the 800 attendees to meet some of the world's top investors and Silicon Valley elite alike. Listen in as top B.C. entrepreneurs share their battle stories (speakers include a mix of authors and founders from Geekwire, TechCrunch, 99Designs, Sprouter, KISSmetrics) as part of this conference now in its third year. Grow takes place at the Vancouver Convention Centre (1055 Canada Place) and other locations.

Parkside cinema

AUG. 19

This weekend marks the return of the 13th Burnaby Blues + Roots Festival at the beautiful outdoor setting of Deer Lake Park. Concert-goers can cruise between several stages and take in acts such as the Indigo Girls, Jimmie Vaughan, Meshell Ndegeocello and more. Visit various artisan exhibits, enjoy a variety of food and more. For info visit burnabyblues-festival.com.

Coming up: Fringe Fest opening party

SEPT. 4

Mark your calendars for what is shaping up to be a blast. Tickets are available for the Sept. 4 launch of the Festival that will take place at Performance Works in Gastown starting at 7 p.m.. Catered by The Keg, Edible Canada and Peter Lehmann Wines — organizers are expecting more than 60,000 attendees, so purchase in advance.

Mixolgy battle

AUG. 20

Monday, head down to Yaletown's Roundhouse for this annual, mixology-inspired competition and discover the finest bartenders our city has to offer. Watch as 12 of the best take to creating their own personalized cocktail. What's more, you'll get to enjoy tasting and voting in Vancouver's best. Tickets are $50 (includes 12 drink tickets, voting privileges and great appetizers). Located at 181 Roundhouse Mews.

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Negotiations on ice

NHL. Uneasiness grows and 2012-13 season in doubt as lockout deadline nears

The first tense moments of the NHL's collective bargaining negotiations have arrived.

With Gary Bettman and Donald Fehr not scheduled to sit across from one another until the middle of next week and the sides unable to even agree on the core issues that need to be addressed, a sense of uneasiness has suddenly enveloped the talks.

After Wednesday's session, in which the NHL dismissed the union's initial proposal, Fehr set off for pre-scheduled player meetings in Chicago. The union boss will also oversee a session with players in Kelowna, B.C., before returning to Toronto and resuming CBA discussions on Aug. 22.

At that point, the league and the NHL Players' Association will have just 24 days left to reach a new agreement and avoid a lockout.

But where do they start? There is very little common ground between the proposals each side has put forth and neither seems particularly willing to move off its current position.

"What the issues are and how they get solved and how deep the issues go are something that we're not yet on the same page about," Bettman said Wednesday.

Meanwhile, the hockey world remains on hold — and many are starting to brace for the worst. The Detroit Red Wings announced Thursday that they're cancelling their annual September prospects tournament in Traverse City, Mich., due to the "uncertainty" surrounding the CBA.

Eight teams had been scheduled to participate.

"We have determined that it is in everyone's best interest to cancel this year's tournament," Red Wings GM Ken Holland said in a statement.

Sub-committees from the league and union gathered Thursday to discuss non-core economic issues such as travel, ice conditions and training camp. Both sides seemed encouraged about the status of those talks, but as deputy NHL commissioner Bill Daly pointed out: "I don't think that's where this CBA is going to get cut or not."

In simple terms, the owners want to pay players less — much less. Despite the fact the NHL's revenues grew from $2.2 billion before the 2004-05 lockout to $3.3 billion last season, a number of teams are still struggling.

The financial success of the wealthiest franchises over the last seven years ended up hurting the poorer ones.

That's because the salary cap was tied to overall hockey-related revenues and rose dramatically from $39 million in 2005-06 to $64.3 million last season, bringing the salary floor (the minimum teams must spend) up along with it. If next season was played under the current system, the cap would have been set at $70.2 million and the floor would have been $54.2 million.

However, a new deal needs to be put in place before the NHL resumes operations.

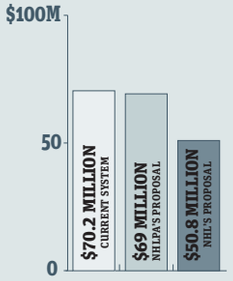
THE CANADIAN PRESS

NHL commissioner Gary Bettman speaks to journalists after leaving talks in Toronto on Monday. CHRIS YOUNG/THE CANADIAN PRESS

The Capitals' Alex Ovechkin, centre, and the Senators' Jason Spezza, left, follow NHLPA executive director Donald Fehr on Tuesday. CHRIS YOUNG/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Salary-cap gap

Here's a look at how the salary cap would be impacted by the current CBA along with proposals from the NHL and NHLPA for the 2012-13 season:



Far from floored

$14.2M

There is a salary-cap floor in the NHL— the minimum a team can spend on players. The current floor is $54.2 million. The NHLPA proposes a $53–million dollar floor while the league made a $38.8-million offer, for a gap of $14.2 million between the two sides.

Negotiating committee

Campoli on NHL: 'They just want more money'

A day after hearing NHL commissioner Gary Bettman say a "wide gap" remained in collective bargaining negotiations, players were still upset that the owners quickly dismissed their initial proposal.

"The industry's grown a billion dollars since (the lockout) and basically they just want more money," Chris Campoli, a member of the NHLPA's negotiating committee, said Thursday.

"I thought in our proposal we made a step and considerable concessions to them," he added. "Frankly, it was a little disappointing to see the response yesterday and the view they have on it."

Campoli was one of three NHL players who took part in Thursday's subcommittee meetings, which covered secondary issues.

An unrestricted free-agent defenceman who spent last season in Montreal, Campoli has emerged as one of the strongest voices among the players.

The players offered to keep a hard salary cap and put a drag on their salaries in exchange for an expanded revenue-sharing system — but Bettman and the owners weren't in favour of it. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quoted

"We want to fix the systematic issues they have with the way things are run and I think we're being more than fair."

Chris Campoli, defenceman and member of the NHLPA negotiating committee

CFL GETS IT RIGHT WITH MITCHELL BAN

CFL EXTRA POINTS
Dan Toth
vancouver@metronews.ca

B.C. Lions: Despite hi-def, slow-motion video evidence to the contrary, Khalif Mitchell is sticking with his story that it was a "football play" that caused Edmonton Eskimo Simeon Rottier's hyper-extended arm last month in Vancouver. Truth is, it was a vicious act that has no place in the game and the league was right to reject Mitchell's appeal of his two-game suspension.

Edmonton Eskimos: Want proof that the CFL is one giant ecosystem? The arrival this week in Edmonton of RB Cory Boyd, released by Toronto, could now mean Esks RB Hugh Charles will find himself looking for work. Through six games this season, Charles piled up 400 rushing yards and two touchdowns and is second on the Eskies with 269 receiving yards. The numbers suggest he's safe, except that Boyd led the league in rushing this season only to be handed a pink slip.

Calgary Stampeders: The battered and bruised Stamps offensive line welcomed the suddenly un-retired Obby Khan this week, and just in time, too. The 31-year-old Khan, who hung 'em up after last season in Winnipeg, will fill in nicely after injuries to Red and White hogs Steve Myddelton and Na'Shan Goddard.

Saskatchewan Roughriders: Three straight losses and Rider fans have gone from euphoria to panic, but the team's record requires some perspective. After a league-worst 5-13 showing last season, a 3-3 mark one-third of the way into 2012 indicates this year's club is miles ahead of last season, especially considering their losses have been by slim margins.

Toronto Argos: Jettisoned RB Cory Boyd, who just happened to be the CFL's leading rusher at the time, may have been a bad teammate and a failure at picking up blitzes, but it could have been salary-cap issues that finally sent Boyd packing. With QB Ricky Ray on course for a 5,000-yard passing season and presumably significant performance bonuses, the Double Blue had to shed some salary somewhere. Chad Kackert, who likely takes Boyd's spot in the lineup, represents significant savings for GM Jim Barker.

Montreal Alouettes: Als tailback Brandon Whitaker with his bruised ribs will likely not dress for Friday night's game in Edmonton. Whitaker, the CFL's top rusher in 2011, was hurt early in the fourth quarter last week in Winnipeg. Now we'll see what aging QB Anthony Calvillo can do without a proven ground game.

4 SPORTS

Mobile sports

The London Olympics' motto to "Inspire a Generation" hasn't taken long to take effect in Canada. The women's under-20 World Cup kicks off this weekend with Canada inspired by and motivated to equal the bronze won by the senior team last week in London.

Horoscopes

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
Indulge your desires today — every last one of them. Don't worry about what others might say. Life is too short not to have fun while you can. Friends and family will have fun being close to you too.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
What you want and what you get are likely to be two different things today. There is no point getting uptight about it because life is what it is. Just this once, let other people have their way.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
Some surprising things will happen over the next 24 hours and they will be the kind of things you enjoy. The more you are on the move and meeting people, the more surprises, and the more fun, you will have.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
Today's new moon will make it easy for you to talk about business and start deals that could one day make you rich. Remember: What you act on now will bring the rewards that you crave tomorrow.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
You have done more than enough for other people. Now it is time to do something for yourself. The new moon in your birth sign will inspire you to try something new, something a little — or even a lot — outrageous!

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
What you think and feel today will leave you in no doubt at all what your next move must be, and if you act on what your instincts tell you then success of some kind will not be far behind. Be bold.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Work with other people to get things done. You may be quite capable of completing a task on your own but you will also be left with the nagging feeling that you could and should have done more.

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
You need to decide, once and for all, what your career path is going to be. Deep down you already know what you want to do with your life, so all you really have to do is commit to it, then act.

♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
A new moon in your fellow Fire sign of Leo means you won't let anyone or anything come between you and your goal. This is no time for questions — just get on and do what has to be done.

♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
A debt of some kind needs to be paid. Pay it now while you are in a position to do so. It does not have to be a financial debt — most likely you need to repay someone for their emotional support.

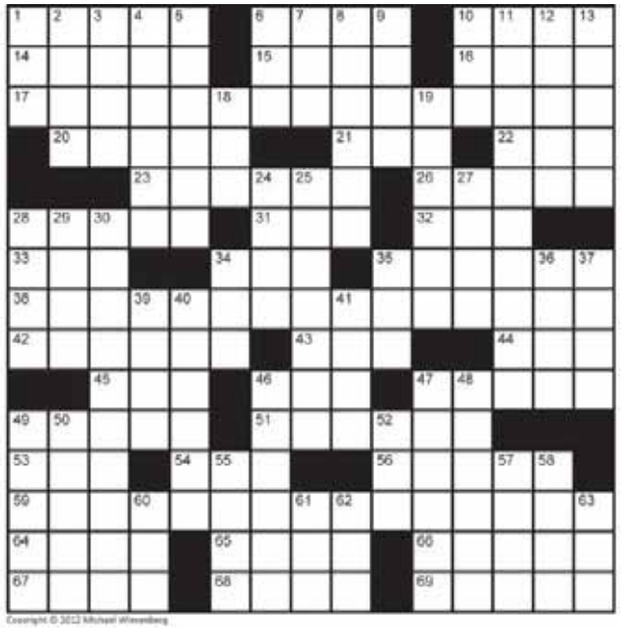
♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
It may look as if other people have the upper hand but do they really have the power to tell you what to do? No, they don't! Stand up for yourself today. Refuse to do anything that goes against your interests.

♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
Do what you have to do to fit in with a loved one's plans, even though there are other things you would rather be working on. If you help them today they will give you a free hand over the weekend.

SALLY BROMPTON

Crossword: Of PMs, Breweries, and Heroes

BY MICHAEL WIESENBERG



Across
1. "Parsley, sage, rosemary, and ___"
6. C&W's McEntire
10. Actor Arkin
14. "There's ___ Out Tonight": 1961 Capris hit (2 wds.)
15. Guinness of film
16. Rabbit
17. 13th PM (1957-1963) (2 wds.)
20. Emulates eagles
21. Pod occupant
22. Ltr. holder
23. Arrow poison that's also a muscle relaxant
26. Calm one's fears
28. Territory that doesn't have Territory in its name
31. Angry
32. What a ghost might say
33. Hawaiian tuna
34. Québec turndown
35. Robinson ___
38. Montréal brew (2 wds.)
42. Ye Olde ___, quaint store
43. Possess
44. ___ Lanka: Ceylon today
45. Atlas page
46. Wed. preceder
47. It's east of Newfoundland
49. Not level with
51. Actress Andress
53. "Just ___ naturally"
54. 35mm camera type
56. "Let's Make ___" (2 wds.)
59. 28-Across hero (2 wds.)
64. Bird feeder food
65. Bassoon or clarinet
66. Beetle Bailey's nemesis
67. ___ facto: as an inevitable result
68. Carpet measurement
69. Clandestine meeting

Down
1. ___ Mahal
2. Certain medical insurance plans
3. National Park just across Alberta-BC border from Banff
4. Monte Carlo locale
5. Evasive tactic (2 wds.)
6. Alberta-born actress ___ Dawn Chong
7. Santa's helper
8. Honked
9. Teenager's skin problem
10. "Eureka!"
11. Banff National Park's best known tourist destination (2 wds.)
12. Basketball game site
13. Bold
18. Lebanon neighbour: abbr.
19. "___, black sheep..." (2 wds.)
24. Andy's 1950s radio partner
25. Bitter resentment
27. *The ___ of the Rings*
28. Thanksgiving side dish
29. "Here comes trouble!"
30. TCH distances
34. Kingston-to-Ottawa dir.
35. *Headline News* channel
36. Tegan and ___: Calgary-born rockers
37. "What's going ___ there?" (2 wds.)
39. Expectorated
40. Act against
41. Bedazzles
46. Winnipeg's Fred ___: cofounder of 1970s rock band familiarly called BTO
47. First born
48. *Julius* ___: Shakespeare tragedy
49. Yogurt-based Indian drink often made with mango
50. Become unnavigable, as a sea in winter (2 wds.)
52. Old Egypt-Syr. alliance
55. Tomb Raider Croft
57. "Give it ___!": "Go for it!" (2 wds.)
58. Cabin material
60. Ronnie & the Daytonas sang about this car in the 1960s
61. Golf stand
62. BlackBerry or Palm Pilot, for short
63. Bring home after expenses

Yesterday's crossword

What's online

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers.

Sudoku

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

7	3				5	2		
4			9	7				6
					6	4		
		2		9				5
	5						8	
9				1		7		
		3	6					
8				2	7			4
		1	8				3	2

Yesterday's Sudoku

6	4	5	7	8	3	2	1	9
2	7	3	9	1	4	8	5	6
1	9	8	2	6	5	3	4	7
3	5	1	8	2	7	6	9	4
7	8	6	5	4	9	1	3	2
9	2	4	6	3	1	5	7	8
5	3	2	4	7	6	9	8	1
8	1	7	3	9	2	4	6	5
4	6	9	1	5	8	7	2	3

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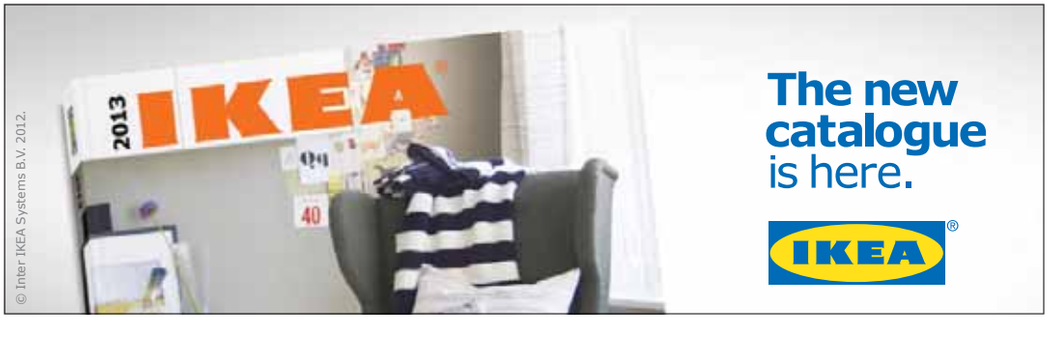

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Los Angeles	from $345 incl $238 base + $107 taxes & fees
New York	from $348* incl $286 base + $62 taxes & fees
Philadelphia	from $432 incl $298 base + $134 taxes & fees
Puerto Vallarta	from $479 incl $139 base + $340 taxes & fees
Miami	from $496 incl $358 base + $138 taxes & fees
Toronto	from $583 incl $339 base + $244 taxes & fees
Costa Rica	from $619 incl $311 base + $308 taxes & fees
New Orleans	from $669 incl $529 base + $140 taxes & fees
London	from $674 incl $99 base + $575 taxes & fees
Amsterdam	from $740 incl $249 base + $491 taxes & fees
Frankfurt	from $747 incl $189 base + $558 taxes & fees
Lima	from $748 incl $299 base + $449 taxes & fees
Bangkok	from $999 incl $419 base + $580 taxes & fees
Manila	from $1021 incl $580 base + $441 taxes & fees
Sydney	from $1369 incl $444 base + $925 taxes & fees

USA

Las Vegas Air + 3 Nights
$258* from
incl $191 base + $67 taxes & fees
INCLUDES airfare from Bellingham and accom on the Strip. **UPGRADE** to 4-star accom from $12 per night.

Palm Springs
Air + 3 Nights 4-Star from $580 incl $439 base + $141 taxes & fees
INCLUDES downtown accom near restaurants and shopping.

San Francisco Air + 3 Nights from $638 incl $499 base + $139 taxes & fees
INCLUDES accom near Union Square. **UPGRADE** to 4-star accom from $58 per night. **ADD** Academy of Science admission from $33.

Scottsdale Air + 3 Nights from $650 incl $519 base + $131 taxes & fees
INCLUDES all-suite accom. **BONUS** daily breakfast and parking included. **UPGRADE** to 4-star accom from $57 per night. **ADD** 3-day car rental with unlimited mileage from $21 per day.

San Diego Air + 3 Nights 4-Star from $723 incl $589 base + $134 taxes & fees
INCLUDES Harbour Island accom. **BONUS** daily breakfast included. **UPGRADE** to 5-star accom from $21 per night. **ADD** harbour cruise from $16.

Honolulu Air + 7 Nights from $744 incl $579 base + $165 taxes & fees
INCLUDES accom near Waikiki beach.

Napa Valley
Air + 3 Nights + Car from $744 incl $605 base + $139 taxes & fees
INCLUDES boutique accom in wine country and a 3-day car rental with unlimited mileage. **BONUS** daily bike rental included. **UPGRADE** to 4-star accom from $16 per night.

Theme Park Vacations

Anaheim
Family Special, Air + 4 Nights
$265◊ from
incl $191 base + $74 taxes & fees
INCLUDES accom near theme parks. Price per person based on family of 4. **ADD** *Disneyland* Resort 3-day 1-Park Per Day Ticket from $222/adult, $207/child (ages 3-9).

Orlando Family Special
Air + 7 Nights from $699◊ incl $561 base + $138 taxes & fees
INCLUDES central accom with free transportation to major attractions. Price per person based on family of 4. **ADD** Universal 2-Day Base Ticket $131/adult, $120/child (ages 3-9).

Canada

Summerland 3 Nights
$199 from
taxes & fees included
INCLUDES accom located on a secluded stretch of Lake Okanagan shoreline.

Whistler 2 Nights 4-Star from $109 taxes & fees included
INCLUDES village accom with fully equipped kitchenette. **ADD** tree trek canopy walk from $50.

Harrison Hot Springs
2 Nights from $173 taxes & fees included
INCLUDES accom overlooking Harrison Lake. **ADD** 2-day car rental with unlimited mileage from $36 per day.

Osoyoos 2 Nights 4-Star from $240 taxes & fees included
INCLUDES 1-bedroom suite accom located at a lake beachfront resort just minutes from some of BC's best vineyards and orchards.

Sunshine Coast 2 Nights from $284 taxes & fees included
INCLUDES accom at the Best of BC Wilderness Resort award winner. **ADD** 3-hour guided kayaking on the Sechelt Inlet from $105.

Kelowna 2 Nights 4-Star from $288 taxes & fees included
INCLUDES Okanagan lakefront accom. **ADD** Summerhill Winery tour from $11.

Banff & Lake Louise
5 Nights from $350 taxes & fees included
INCLUDES 3 nights accom in Banff and 2 nights accom in Lake Louise. **ADD** glacier trail from $169.

Tofino 3 Nights from $463 taxes & fees included
INCLUDES accom on the peninsula only minutes from the Village of Tofino. **ADD** whale watching tour from $113.

Europe

Frankfurt & Munich
Oktoberfest, Air + 7 Nights
$1833 from
incl $1123 base + $710 taxes & fees
INCLUDES all airfare, 4 nights Frankfurt accom and 3 nights Munich accom near the Theresienwiese (the official ground of the Munich Oktoberfest).

London Air + 6 Nights from $1158 incl $584 base + $574 taxes & fees
INCLUDES Russell Square accom. **ADD** London Eye ticket from $33.

United Kingdom
Air + 7 Nights + Car from $1374 incl $799 base + $575 taxes & fees
INCLUDES airfare, car rental to explore England, Scotland and Wales and vouchers for Hotel & Inn accom.

Prague Air + 7 Nights from $1730 incl $1169 base + $561 taxes & fees
INCLUDES accom with easy access to the city centre. **UPGRADE** to 4-star accom from $24 per night. **ADD** Valtava River cruise from $32.

Cruises

Hawaii 16-Night Cruise
$1172 from
incl $1067 base + $105 taxes & fees
CRUISE roundtrip Vancouver visiting Hawaii, Maui, Kauai and Honolulu. **UPGRADE** to outside stateroom from $9 per night

Seattle
1 Night + 1-Night Cruise from $292 incl $230 base + $62 taxes & fees
INCLUDES bus transfer to Seattle, accom near the University District and cruise sailing from Seattle to Vancouver.

Las Vegas
Air + 3 Nights + 2-Night Cruise from $678 incl $565 base + taxes & fees $113
INCLUDES all airfare, 2-night cruise sailing Vancouver to San Francisco and 3 nights Vegas accom on the Strip. **UPGRADE** to balcony stateroom and 4-star accom from $33 per night

Alaska 9-Night Cruise from $1043 incl $857 base + $186 taxes & fees
CRUISE roundtrip Vancouver visiting the Inside Passage, Sitka, Hubbard Glacier, Skagway, Juneau, Icy Strait and Ketchikan.

New York & Bahamas Air +
1 Night 4-Star + 7-Night Cruise from $1399 incl $1159 base + taxes & fees $240
INCLUDES airfare, 4-star Manhattan accom and 7-night cruise sailing from New York and visiting Port Canaveral, Great Stirrup Cay and Nassau. **UPGRADE** to oceanview cabin from $8 per night

Vacations

Dubai Air + 7 Nights
$1867 from
incl $1656 base + $211 taxes & fees
INCLUDES accom near the Mall of Emirates. **BONUS** daily breakfast included. **ADD** sundowner dune safari from $109.

Bali Air + 9 Nights from $1761 incl $1315 base + $446 taxes & fees
INCLUDES accom in the heart of Kuta. **BONUS** free massage included. **UPGRADE** to 4-star accom from $29 per night. **ADD** Ubud artistry tour from $48.

Thailand Air + 9 Nights from $2140 incl $1744 base + $396 taxes & fees
INCLUDES all airfare, 2 nights Bangkok accom, and 7 nights Koh Samui accom. **UPGRADE** to 4-star accom in Koh Samui from $41 per night. **ADD** island tour from $60.

Australia Queensland Long Stay
Air + 19 Nights from $2777 incl $1879 base + $898 taxes & fees
INCLUDES Mooloolaba Esplanade accom near the beach on the Sunshine Coast. **ADD** Brisbane airport transfer from $90 per direction.

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